

Discover

Create

Share



SINCE 1995
www.myhero.com

Empower

Inspire

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

TO THE MY HERO PROJECT



**THE MY HERO PROJECT
CELEBRATES 15 YEARS ONLINE.**

What began as a simple idea to celebrate the best of humanity online has become the world's largest hero resource, an invaluable tool for teachers around the world, and a place of inspiration for people of all ages.

JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Discover who makes MY HERO possible, read some of our favorite stories from the past 15 years, and share your hero with us!



The MY HERO Project is used in classrooms around the world to celebrate and foster the best of humanity.

MY HERO provides standards-aligned lesson plans, web-authoring tools, customized webpages for sharing student work, structured cross-cultural collaborations through virtual classrooms called Learning Circles and other media arts resources.



EDUCATOR'S GUIDE TO THE MY HERO PROJECT

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myhero.com/Films
Annual Short Film Festival held at USC



myhero.com/iEarn
iEARN 2010 Conference in Barrie, Canada



INTRODUCTION

A child's education shapes who he or she will become. Unfortunately, funding streams for our schools and teachers have drastically diminished, while, at the same time, the concepts taught and platforms for delivery have changed dramatically. With limited resources available and a world characterized by new media, we must leverage the power of technology to ensure the successful development of our youth.

The **MY HERO Project's** child-friendly website (myhero.com) hosts an array of educational resources and a digital library that enable individuals of all ages to create, share and discover inspirational stories, art, audio, and short films with a global learning community. **MY HERO** offers a variety of technology applications to match different learning styles, interests and subjects taught. Participants can design webpages in the *Create Program*; upload or listen to speeches and music in the *Audio Studio*; view and submit artwork to *The Gallery*; watch short films in *The Screening Room*; browse a vast *Directory of Heroes*; read Spanish content in *Mi Heroé*; reflect on heroism in *The Forum*; or access current events in *Newswire*. Every submission to **MY HERO** is reviewed carefully before it's activated to ensure that it does not promote hatred, violence, racism and/or sexism and that it is original or properly cites sources, making **The MY HERO Project** a safe, uplifting online resource. By exploring and creating their own inspirational media through web-authoring programs, students build skills in critical thinking, project management, research, communication and new media literacy.

The **MY HERO Teacher's Room** provides resources and technical support to help educators like you use **MY HERO's** multimedia cognitive tools in the classroom (www.myhero.com/teachersroom). You can use existing

standards-aligned, project-based lesson plans or develop your own and share them with others. The *Organizer* allows you to produce customized collections of your students' work or selected content (based on a particular theme or topic) and then publish this index as a Web page that can be accessed anywhere at any time. *Learning Circles* act as virtual classrooms — by joining one of these, your students can communicate and collaborate with peers across the globe.

MY HERO also has other educational resources available upon request. *The MY HERO Report: Youth Edition Volume I and II* are DVD compilations of inspirational short videos about passionate young people and their heroes. [My Hero: Extraordinary People on the Heroes Who Inspire Them](#) is a collection of essays written by some of the most remarkable people of our time, including Nobel Prize Winners Wangari Maathai and Elie Wiesel. These materials can help to empower students and foster in them an understanding of the concept of heroism and an appreciation for diversity.

This *Educator Guide* will give you an in-depth look at some of the features available on **The MY HERO Project** website so you can more easily integrate these interdisciplinary, standards-aligned and skill-building resources in your own classroom. We hope **The MY HERO Project** helps to inspire, educate and empower your students. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact our team directly for support.

THE MY HERO PROJECT

Email: myhero@myheroproject.org



myhero.com/FilmArtz30

A two minute video celebration from the MY HERO multimedia library.

SKILLS AND STANDARDS

By Sara Armstrong, PhD

21ST CENTURY SKILLS

While academic subjects such as reading, writing, math, science, and social studies are vital in education, other skills such as collaboration, communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, information literacy, and creativity are equally as important. Beleaguered educators protest that they cannot add one more thing to all the subjects they are expected to teach for students to do well on standardized tests. I suggest that academic standards, skills needed to thrive in today's world that have been identified by such organizations as the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (www.p21.org), can be addressed when students express their understanding of academic concepts through identifying inspiring people and then writing, creating short films, or developing art about them.

Not only does the Partnership for 21st Century Skills recognize technology literacy and creativity as important parts of learning and expression of understanding, but the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)'s National Education Technology Standards (NETS) Project includes these practices in their updated NETS for Students (<http://www.iste.org/standards/nets-for-students.aspx>).

Allowing students to use current technology to express their understanding and knowledge of academic subjects affords them practice with important tools and fosters effective communication through these media with a global audience.

CONTENT STANDARDS

Both the national Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects, and Mathematics are focused on

students becoming “literate individuals” by such criteria as their ability to demonstrate independence, build strong content knowledge, use technology and digital media strategically and capably, and understand other perspectives and cultures.

Paste the below link into your browser to download a copy of the *Common Core State Standards*.

http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_ELA%20Standards.pdf

National and state standards in reading and writing can be addressed through composing stories about heroes modeled after those at the **MY HERO** website in the Directory of Heroes. Communication and technology standards, as well as writing and researching, are accounted for as students create short films on their topics. And art standards, as well as communication, writing, and other skills are encompassed in creating art works and developing the narratives about the pieces. Students complete work for an authentic audience and are motivated by the feedback they receive from their peers and adults around the world who come across their work at the **MY HERO** website.

Sara Armstrong, PhD, is a long-time educator who has promoted project-based learning for many years. She conducts conference presentations, workshops, and year-long coaching to help teachers develop and implement effective projects, including appropriate technology use. She also serves as editor of OnCUE, California Computer-Using Educators' journal, and is an associate of the Thornburg Center for Professional Development.



GETTING STARTED

myhero.com/start

To submit content to The MY HERO Project, you and each one of your students must first register for a free account.

1 TEACHER REGISTRATION

Go to myhero.com/START and register for an account as an educator. This will give you access to special tools you can use to gather content for your class.

2 SURVEY

You are asked to complete a short survey with information about your class in the registration process. This information is vital in helping us assess and report on our impact.

3 APPROVAL EMAIL

You will receive an email when your account is approved.

4 LOG ON

Log on through myhero.com or myhero.com/start to access your personalized DASHBOARD. Each icon represents a different program of **The MY HERO Project**.

5 CREATE

Click any icon to create and share inspirational media!

6 STUDENT REGISTRATION

Instruct your students to register through the same myhero.com/start portal so they can participate. Ensure that they enter the school and teacher name correctly so you and **MY HERO** staff members can easily search for and collect your class's media. Your students will receive approval emails after they register as well. You can also register via Facebook on the [Teacher's Room Homepage](#).

PARTICIPATE IN THE MY HERO PROJECT



STORIES Through the Create program, students are invited to build essays or stories about their heroes using text, images and links and publish these for an online audience.



ART In the Gallery, students can upload original art, photography and digital images about who or what inspires them.



FILMS Student and professional filmmakers can submit documentary, experimental, animated or narrative short films, 10 minutes and under, about those making a positive difference in our world. Students can also submit short inspiring films of any genre to the **MY HERO** International Film Festival (more info on p. 9). **MY HERO** has media arts resources to get you started. (myhero.com/films/mediaarts.asp)



AUDIO Share original music, speeches, poetry readings, interviews or commentary about heroic acts here.



GUESTBOOK Sign the Guestbook to write just a few sentences about an organization or individual working for the greater good and read others' contributions from around the world.



CALENDAR A feature made especially for educators, the Calendar notes hero birthdays, UN international days, thematic content and special events of interest to teachers and students.



MY PROFILE Here you can submit a short bio and a photo of yourself.



ORGANIZER This program was made for educators and leaders of community groups to create personal indices of **MY HERO** essays, art and films based on a topic, location or theme.



TUTORIALS Here you will find printable directions or short video tutorials for various programs available through myhero.com. The **MY HERO** staff is always available to help as well—email us at myhero@myheroproject.org.



VOTE You and your class can vote for the Audience Choice Award for our International Film Festival as well as other special **MY HERO** events throughout the year.



FEEDBACK Please take time to fill out our online survey. We rely on your feedback to improve this interactive project.



GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

As a child-friendly website dedicated to cultivating peace, tolerance and diversity, we will not publish anything that promotes hatred, violence or prejudice. Also, work must be in the student's own words, not copied or plagiarized. Original sources (not search engines) must be fully credited.

MY HERO'S FREE ONLINE MULTI-MEDIA RESOURCES

Even without registering for an account, you and your students can discover uplifting media through many programs on myhero.com. Have your students view the rich galleries of **MY HERO** media as part of your existing unit or lesson plan. Go to myhero.com/PARTICIPATE to learn more.

DIRECTORY OF HEROES

Read inspiring stories about heroes from around the world.

myhero.com/Directory

ART

Browse the **MY HERO** Gallery for inspiring images to get your class thinking about what makes a hero.

myhero.com/Gallery

FILMS

Watch award-winning short films made by professionals and students from around the world. DVD's are available of selected content for classroom use upon request.

myhero.com/Films

AUDIO

Listen to stories being read about heroes from around the world and read along with the narrator if you like. This resource is excellent for ESL and early readers.

myhero.com/Audio

HEROES IN THE NEWS/NEWSWIRE

This selection of stories from the Associated Press features technological and scientific advancements, community service, acts of kindness, philanthropy and heroism around the world. Individuals can build their research skills and think critically about the challenges and solutions in our world by looking at content in these programs.

myhero.com/News

LIBRARY

A virtual collection of books and poems focuses on heroes whose stories have been featured on the **MY HERO** website. Teachers and students are encouraged to use this online catalogue to find reading materials about heroes from all walks of life. Visitors can suggest their own favorite books and add comments. Please recommend any publications we might be missing.

myhero.com/Library

FORUM

The Heroic Virtues Forum asks participants to share their insights on what qualities make someone a hero. Through various discussion board threads, visitors can read essays, posts and contribute their own ideas about the following characteristics of heroes: Vision, Humility, Love, Faith, Perseverance, Joy, Honesty and Hope. Another forum theme is "How Should We Choose Our Heroes?"

myhero.com/Forum

MI HEROÉ

Read and submit stories in Spanish about heroes around the world. This is a great resource for students learning English or Spanish, as many stories are available in both languages.

miheroe.org

SEARCH

Look for content by keyword, title, author, location or type. Through an advanced search, you can find stories, art, audio or short films about topics that interest you most.

myhero.com/Search

TEACHER'S ROOM RESOURCES

WHAT CAN YOU DO IN THE MY HERO TEACHER'S ROOM?



You and your students can **VIEW** hero-related stories, art, and film. Teach your students how to **CREATE** hero-related stories, art, and film. **PLAN** your lessons with our Common Core, ISTE, and National Arts standards-based lessons. **CONNECT** with other educators in our global community via our Community Page. **COLLABORATE** on projects and discuss issues and ideas in the Forum.

Lesson Plans, activity guides, handouts
myhero.com/lessonplans

Resources: Downloadable PDF flyers, DVDs, current newsletter
myhero.com/resources

SOCIAL MEDIA: MY HERO has gone 2.0!



Twitter.com/myhero

Follow our Twitter feeds on the Teacher's Room homepage, share resources by tweeting with the hashtag, **#myheroteachers**.



Facebook.com/MyHeroProject

Become part of our Facebook community by “liking” The MY HERO Project. Integrate your Teacher's Room account with your Facebook account — and only sign in once!



MY HERO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

The **FAQS** tab gives quick answers to questions you may have about **The MY HERO Project**, and how to use it in your classroom.
<http://myhero.com/teachersroom/FAQs.asp>

THE DAILY CALENDAR lists the birthdays of many heroes: some with links to stories in the **MY HERO** database, and some whose stories need to be told by your students! <http://myhero.com/calendar>



JOIN AN IEARN/ MY HERO LEARNING CIRCLE

iearn.org/Circles

myhero.com/Teachers



Elementary, middle, and high school classrooms around the world collaborate on the subject of heroism.

MY HERO LEARNING CIRCLES

MY HERO Learning Circles is a joint venture between iEARN Learning Circles and **The MY HERO Project** (www.myhero.com). This Circle brings together students and teachers who are interested in collaborating with other schools from diverse areas of the world on the topic of **MY HERO** through writing, art, and digital video.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

To join iEARN Learning Circles, you must first be a member of iEARN and complete an iEARN Learning Circle placement form (<http://media.iearn.org/course/eglc>) at least two weeks before the beginning of the session. Once you complete the placement form, you will be contacted via email in order to confirm your information and to determine your correct Circle placement.

SCHEDULE FOR LEARNING CIRCLES

Next Session: Begins every fall and ends in mid-January (16 weeks with a 2-week break in December). Learning Circle Placement forms are due in early September.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Barry S. Kramer: bskramer48@hotmail.com

Wendy Jewell: wendy@myheroproject.org



Bertha Kennedy
Community School
Student from Alberta,
Canada



T SHIRT Prize Winners
Maddy, Kyle & Matthew

▶ *How to Become a Participant*

▶ *Learning Circle Lesson Plan*

A semester timeline for this collaborative project

▶ *Learning Circle Teacher Debbie Senger's Class CLASSROOM WEBPAGE*

▶ *Watch Teacher Debbie Senger's Class Project on GLOBAL TV*

myhero.com/globalTV

▶ *Learning Circle Check List*



MY HERO MEDIA ARTS TUTORIALS AND FESTIVALS

MY HERO's annual [International Film Festival](#) and Local Hero Fests showcase short films and artwork about heroes around the world from all walks of life. Students, teachers, activists, filmmakers and families come together to celebrate the best of humanity. Winning films are available in the online Screening Room for our global community.

We encourage you and your class to produce short films and submit them to **MY HERO's** festivals, where they are eligible for awards and cash prizes. There are various categories for different genres and levels of experience.

myhero.com/go/Winners

Tutorials and other resources are available to help your students bring their heroes' stories alive through digital filmmaking. **MY HERO's** Media Arts Educators can host workshops and/or provide online support throughout the filmmaking process. Email media@myheroproject.org for more information.

myhero.com/films/MediaArts

MY HERO gives materials to classes, schools or other groups interested in hosting their own local Hero Fest. The **HOW TO HOST A HERO FEST** booklet includes templates and plans that can be customized for your community. DVDs with award-winning short films are available upon request to supplement and enrich locally produced media.

myhero.com/go/HeroFest



Left to right, top to bottom: *Ablaye* Produced By Fary Sakho, *Believe* By Logan Cascia, *Fambul Tok* By Sara Terry, *Rowena Gerber's Solar Oven Project* & *Environmental Studies* By Skip Blumberg & Jeanne Meyers, *Jon Rose - Humanitarian Hero* By Tom Aiello of HURLEY International, *Composition For Sustained Rain* By Grupo Humus from ARGENTINA, *Roz Savage - Ocean Rower* By Roz Savage, *Ride A Wave* By Rocky Romano

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

myhero.com/Store

You can email myhero@myheroproject.org or go through the **MY HERO** Store (myhero.com/store) to request additional materials that will help bring **MY HERO**'s inspiring media into your classroom.



The MY HERO Report



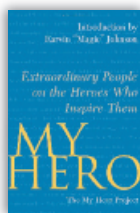
MY HERO Report
Youth Edition II



MY HERO Best of Fest

THE MY HERO REPORT: YOUTH EDITION VOLUMES I AND II DVDS

These compilations of inspirational short videos feature passionate young people and their heroes. The programming was developed from essays submitted to the **MY HERO** website and teacher nominations of young people doing outstanding work around the world. As an added bonus, the second edition DVD includes highlights from the Film Festival gifted by the filmmakers and producers. **MY HERO** has produced this video series with support from a grant from The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.



MY HERO: EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE ON THE HEROES WHO INSPIRE THEM

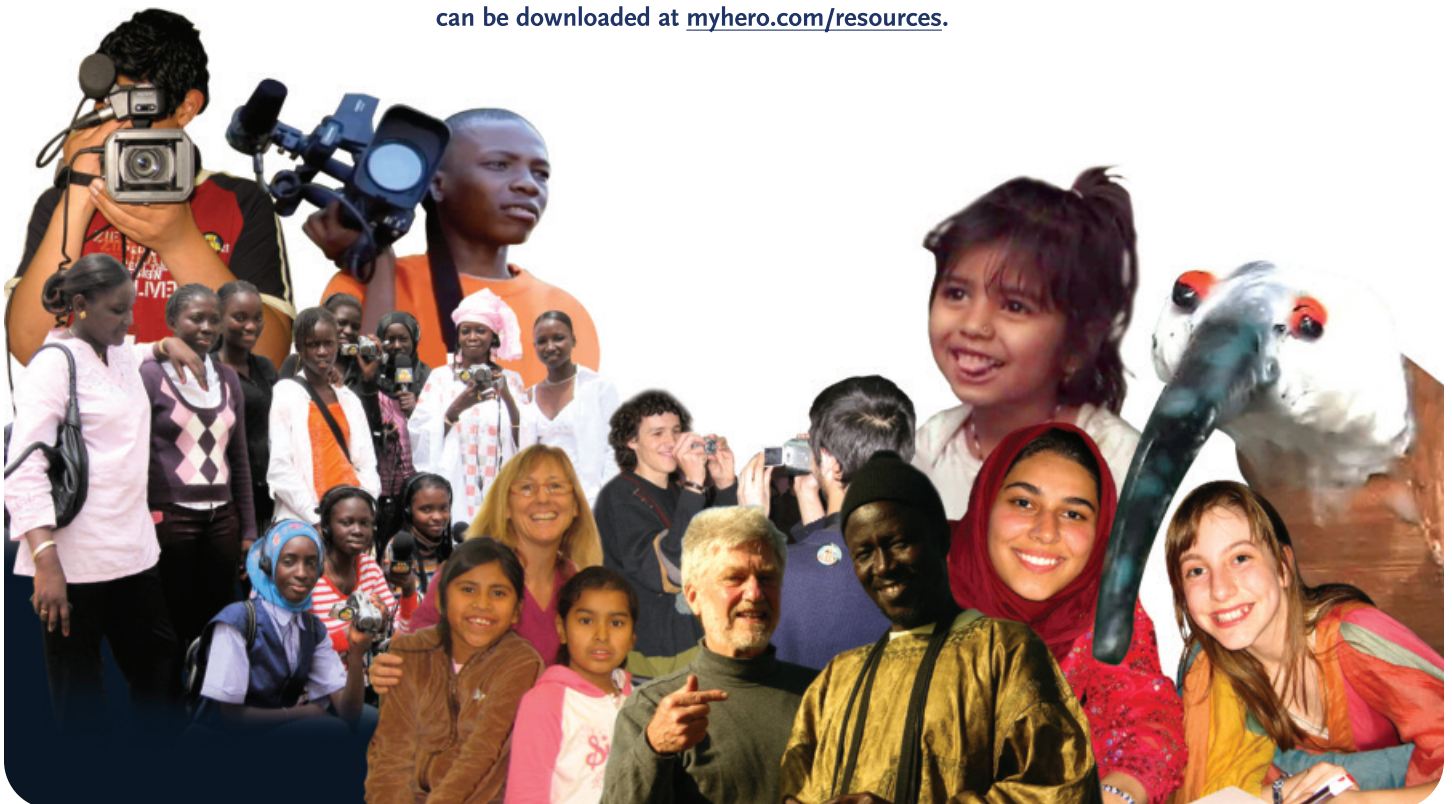
This is collection of essays written by some of the most remarkable people of our time. Authors such as Wangari Maathai, Elie Wiesel, "Magic" Johnson, and Mohammed Ali contributed their stories so that readers could understand how an ordinary person becomes a cultural icon and what character values motivate them.



THE MY HERO BOOKLET

Learn more about **The MY HERO Project** programs and impact and view excerpts of some of most exceptional stories and artwork in our digital archive. Available for download at myhero.com/pdf/booklet

Stickers and T-Shirts can be ordered at myhero.com/store. Fliers and bookmarks can be downloaded at myhero.com/resources.



EXEMPLARY MEDIA FROM OUR DIGITAL ARCHIVE

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL AUTHORS:

- ▶ **Angel Hero: Sadako Sasaki** by Amanda E.
myhero.com/go/Sadako
- ▶ **Peacemaker Hero: Martin Luther King, Jr.** by Nick Campbell
myhero.com/go/MLK
- ▶ **Writer Hero: Elizabeth Jane Cochrane** by Penelope
myhero.com/go/Cochrane
- ▶ **AIDS Hero: Austin Gutwein** by Lindsey
myhero.com/go/Gutwein
- ▶ **Earthkeeper Hero: Jean-Michel Cousteau** by Slater
myhero.com/go/Cousteau
- ▶ **Peacemaker Hero: Peace Pilgrim** by Shiloh
myhero.com/go/PeacePilgrim

HIGH SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY AUTHORS:

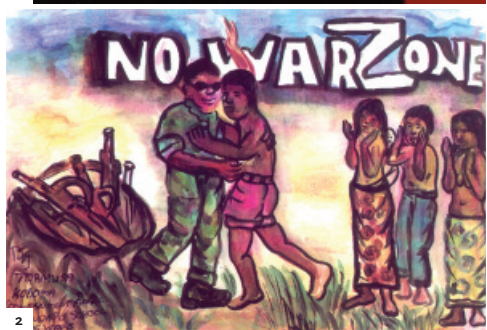
- ▶ **Artist Hero: Jim Henson** by Joe
myhero.com/go/henson
- ▶ **Child Hero: Ruby Nell Bridges** by Madison
myhero.com/go/Ruby_Bridges
- ▶ **Freedom Hero: Iqbal Masih** by Kelly Frost
myhero.com/go/Iqbal
- ▶ **Peacemaker Hero: The 14th Dalai Lama** by Catherine
myhero.com/go/Dalai_Lama
- ▶ **Family Hero: Dick Hoyt** by Jay
myhero.com/go/Hoyt
- ▶ **Faith Hero: Immaculee Ilibagiza** by Molly
myhero.com/go/Ilibagiza

TEACHER AUTHORS:

- ▶ **Literary Hero: Charlotte A. Cavatica** by Amy Mack
myhero.com/go/charlotte
- ▶ **Artist Hero: Mamadou Tall Diedhiou** by Cheikh Darou Seck
myhero.com/go/Diedhiou

PROFESSIONAL FREELANCE WRITERS:

- ▶ **Lifesaver Hero: Ryan Hreljac** by Wendy Jewell
myhero.com/go/Hreljac
- ▶ **Artist Hero: Rembrandt Van Rijn** by Rebecca Miller
myhero.com/go/Rembrandt
- ▶ **Freedom Hero: Chief Joseph** by Jennifer Beck
myhero.com/go/Chief_Joseph
- ▶ **Student Reporter and Mentor: Slater Jewell-Kemker**
MY HERO provides an interactive and dynamic program to nurture aspiring young writers, artists and filmmakers.
myhero.com/go/Slater



(1) 'PEOPLE'S HISTORY' AUTHOR HOWARD ZINN DIES AT 87 by Hillel Italie, AP National Writer (2) No War Zone by Tormusa Koroma, Sierra Leone (3) Doctor by Ireland, Learning Circle, Reeds Spring Primary School (4) Fire Fighter by Austin, Learning Circle, Reeds Spring Primary School (5) Beach Series - Mother & Daughter III by September McGee (6) Anne Frank by Anna Sponer (7) Freedom to Lead by Shepard Fairey (8) Abraham Lincoln by Robert Shetterly (9) Ms. Rosa Parks by Gail G. Slockett

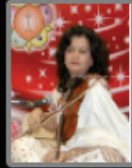
CREATE YOUR OWN ORGANIZER WEBPAGE

Assam Valley School - Heroes from India

Dr. Kuljeet Singh and Mrs. Tamanna Seth, teachers from Assam Valley School in Balipara, India participated in the My Hero Learning Circle with their Grade 8 class. These are their stories.



A Sister Running an Orphanage in Assam, INDIA
By Tanjim Iqbal from Balipara, India



Mrs. Sunita Bhuyan
By Saloni Saraogi and Akansha Jain from Balipara, India



Teji Toko
By Radhika Jalan and Anushka Barman from Balipara, India



Bedashree Choudhry
By Dhruvi Gupta and Nupoor Jain, Assam Valley School

WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN ORGANIZER PAGE?

Find thematic pictures, stories, and videos and organize them on one special webpage for your students to view! Click [HERE](#) to view examples of Classroom, Theme and Special Event Organizer Pages.

MAKE A THEMATIC ORGANIZER PAGE

MY HERO is rich with resources on a variety of topics, like Black History Month, Scientists, and Women. Want to take links, images, stories, and film on a topic and organize them all in one spot for your students? Make a Thematic Organizer Page!

MAKE A SHOWCASE OF STUDENT WORK

Do you want your students to create their own artwork, stories, or films to honor their personal hero? You can use an Organizer Page to collect all of their stories in one page! First they need to create some content, so follow these steps:

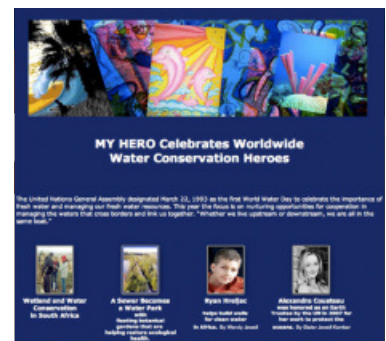
1. **Students** Register at www.myhero.com/start
2. **Students** access tools to create and share web tributes, digital art, audio, and/or short films
3. **Students** include the name of their school/teacher when they register.
4. **Teachers** can gather all links into one **Organizer Page** by searching the site for their school.

Voila: your own Organizer Page of your student work!

REMEMBER: *all submitted content is first reviewed and then approved by MY HERO staff. Approved web content is then published online.*

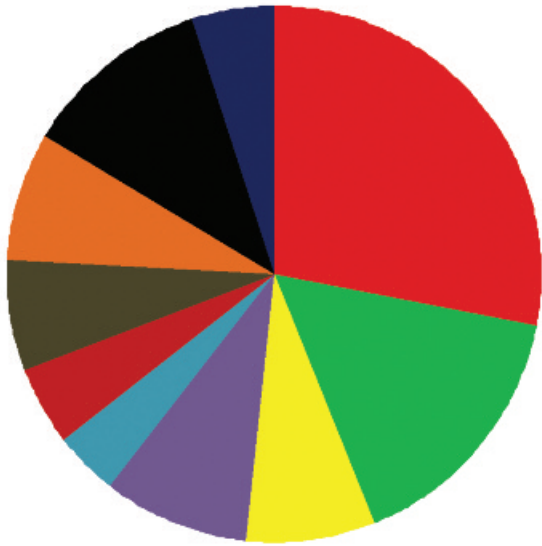
Need assistance? Email myhero@myheroproject.org

myhero.com/Organizer



WHO USES The MY HERO Project?

MY HERO's educational resources are used by over 10 million participants age 2–94 from every state across the USA and over 190 other countries each year.



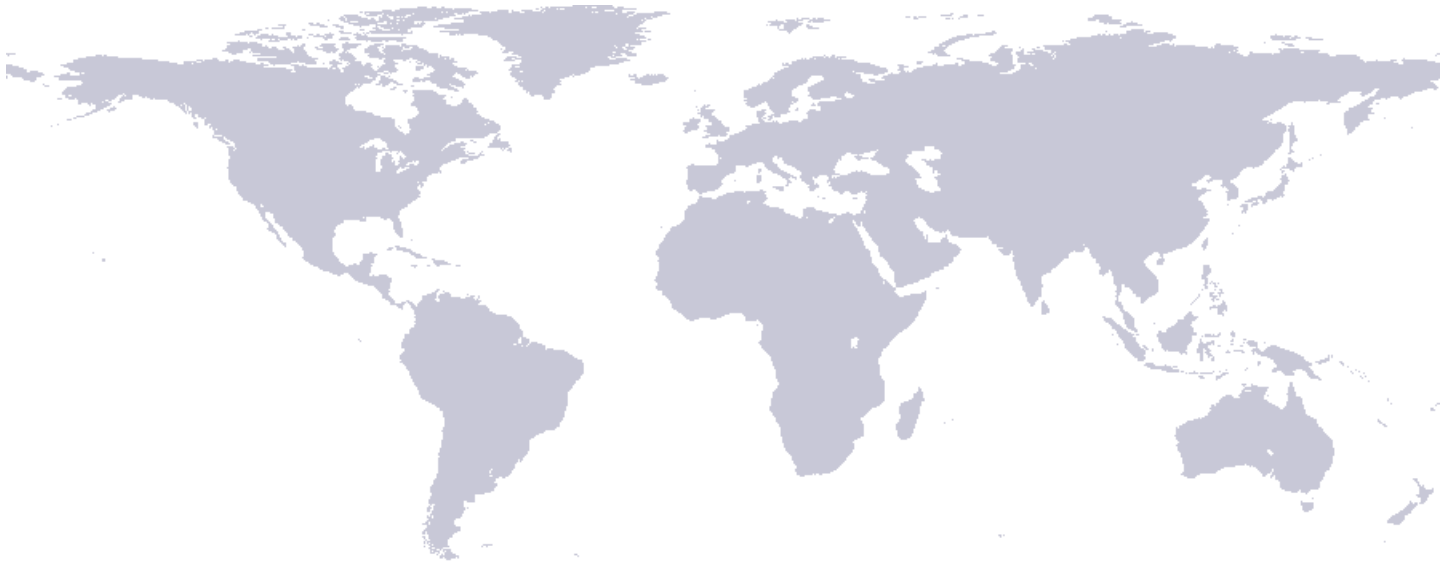
- Language arts
- History
- Science
- Computer education
- Foreign language
- ESL
- Fine Art
- Media art ed
- Character education
- Other

Teachers who use MY HERO Percentage by Grade Level:

Elementary School	30%
Middle School	42%
High School	26%
Adult/College	2%

Teachers who use MY HERO discovered the project through:

Internet search	53%
Another teacher	30%
Conference	6%
iEARN	5%
Other	6%



COUNTRIES

United States	Germany	Indonesia	Denmark	Russian Federation	Greece	Saudi Arabia	Bosnia & Herzegovina
Italy	Poland	Senegal	Spain	Czech Republic	Slovak Republic	Macedonia	Dominican Republic
Canada	Brazil	Iran	Malaysia	Czech Republic	Croatia	Philippines	Peru
Australia	Netherlands	Portugal	Iraq	Kosovo	Israel	Chile	Belarus
United Kingdom	Japan	Turkey	Hungary	Jordan	United Arab Emirates	Egypt	Vietnam
Singapore	France	Ireland	Pakistan	South Africa	Yugoslavia	Morocco	AND MANY MORE...
Mexico	India	Argentina	Sweden	Thailand		Montenegro	
	New Zealand	China	Romania				

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**MY
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SINCE 1995

www.myhero.com

Empower

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To learn more about ways to use MY HERO with your students visit MY HERO's Teacher's Room

www.myhero.com/TeachersRoom

www.myhero.com/Start

www.myhero.com/LessonPlans

 www.twitter.com/MyHero

 www.facebook.com/MyHeroProject

If you share our goals of inspiring, educating, and empowering people of all ages, please support The MY HERO Project. Donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations keep our award-winning, educational programs commercial-free and accessible to all. As The MY HERO Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, all donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

<http://myhero.com/go/Donate>