



JOURNALSIM & FILMMAKING WORKBOOK

"YOUR MISSION"

WEEK 1
CHAPTER 1
GRADES 9-12

LENGTH: 60-90 MIN.

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

- Understand the purpose and structure of a hero film
- Analyzing examples
- Identifying key elements of effective storytelling
- Form collaborative production crews to begin their film project.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- MY HERO Journalism & Filmmaking Workbook (pages 10–13)
- Student notebooks or paper (for journaling and answering guided questions)
- Writing utensils
- Projector for Slide Deck
- **Accompanying Slide Deck**

LINKS

[Award-winning Short Films \(Watch and Learn\)](#).

ADD'L RESOURCES & LINKS

[Advice from MY HERO IFF Winners](#)

OVERVIEW

Tell a story of a hero through a film that entertains, informs, and inspires positive change in the world.

OPENING DISCUSSION

Workbook pg. 11

Your film should...

- A. Show your passion for the topic by highlighting a hero or heroic organization who illustrates that passion.
- B. Show evidence of thorough research of the topic and the hero.
- C. Tell a real life story. Most important is what the person did or what their actions illustrate.
- D. Feature original and/or archival footage and interviews, if possible.
- E. Short films made for this project can be a minute to ten minutes long.
- F. Achieve your ultimate goal: to recognize and celebrate the best of humanity.

ACTIVITY: WATCH AND LEARN

Watch some award-winning films from the MY HERO International Film Festival. Notice the different kinds of heroes chosen, from historical figures to local, everyday people.

(Link in Resource Table)



ACTIVITY: WATCH AND LEARN

Workbook pgs. 12-13

Now, choose one of the films you watched and complete the following notes in your book or a separate sheet of paper:

- 01.** Title of film and name of Director
- 02.** How does this film relate to heroism? Who is the hero or heroic organization?
- 03.** What is the issue raised in the film? Does this film motivate you to take action?
- 04.** Does the film cause an emotional response? Why/Why Not?

Consider the following criteria for judging each film (you are encouraged to watch the film a second time with this in mind):

- 05.** Originality — Is this film an original idea or concept? Is the theme or point of view unique compared to other films? Why/why not?
- 06.** Creativity — Did the filmmaker use creative approaches to storytelling? How creative is the camerawork, sound & editing? Why/why not?
- 07.** Emotional Effectiveness — Were you deeply moved emotionally? Did you feel connected to the story? Are you motivated to take action? Why/why not?
- 08.** Directing — How well is the overall film put together? Is the story cohesive? Is there a clear beginning, middle and end? Do you sense a unique voice in the director's style?

CONCLUDING ACTIVITY: FINDING YOUR CREW

Workbook pgs. 12-13

Finding Your Crew

Use a Grouping Strategy to divide the class groups/crews that will work together for the rest of the project. Each group should have about 5 members.

If time allows..

Have students share what they wrote in "Watch And Learn" with their new crew.