



JOURNALSIM & FILMMAKING WORKBOOK

"YOUR MISSION"

WEEK 1

CHAPTER 1

GRADES 6-8

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.