



JOURNALSIM & FILMMAKING WORKBOOK

CHOOSING AN ISSUE AND A HERO

WEEK 2

CHAPTER 2

GRADES 6-8

LENGTH: 60-90 MIN.

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

- Students will...
- Identify a meaningful social issue
- Select a real-life hero connected to that issue
- Explore personal interests, local heroes, and global change-makers

MATERIALS NEEDED

- MY HERO Journalism & Filmmaking Workbook (pages 15–23)
- Student notebooks or paper (for journaling and answering guided questions)
- Writing utensils
- Projector for Slide Deck
- **Accompanying Slide Deck**

ADD'L RESOURCES & LINKS

[How to Choose Your Hero](#)

[MY HERO's Multimedia Library](#)

OVERVIEW

- Class Discussion: Identifying your hero
- Activity One: Choosing an Issue
- Activity Two: Choosing a Hero
- Activity Three: Hero Qualities
- Finding a Local Hero

OPENING DISCUSSION

Workbook pg. 15

There are many paths to identifying your hero and the story you wish to tell. This chapter offers three possible avenues to getting started:

1. What do you care about? Identify an issue that interests you, then research possible heroes who are working to fix problems related to that issue.
2. Who are your heroes? Identify someone you consider a hero, then research the issue they are trying to fix.
3. Look around you. Who do you have access to? Consider people in your community who have overcome obstacles; these people can be heroic in the inspiration they give us. Have a conversation with someone you love or admire. Explore the stories all these people have to share - you may discover something heroic about them.

HERO PRO TIP

Notice that both of the above paths involve RESEARCH, which can be done on the internet, through informal conversation, and/or with more formal interviews. When you select a hero for your film, you're also selecting a topic about which you will need to know as much as possible. This is one of the most exciting and rewarding aspects of this project, but it also requires drive and persistence on your part.



ACTIVITY ONE: WHAT DO YOU CARE ABOUT AND WHY?

Workbook pgs. 17-19

Your interests and passions evolve over time. It's important to choose a topic that near and dear to your heart.

01. Turn to the worksheet on pages 17-19 in your workbook.
02. Complete the worksheet to explore ideas for film topics.

ACTIVITY TWO: WHO ARE YOUR HEROES AND WHY?

Workbook pgs. 20-21

01. Turn to page 20 in your workbook and complete steps 1-3 below to identify the names of people you might want to make your film about.
02. Keep in mind the list of topics and issues you compiled in the previous activity and consider people who might be making a difference in those areas.

ACTIVITY THREE: HERO QUALITIES

Workbook pgs. 20-21

- A. Think** about the Hero Qualities on page 21 of your workbook.
- B. Pair** up with a buddy and review how the people you each chose align with the Hero Qualities.
- C. Share** up to 3 Heroes with the class that you are considering for your Hero film.

FINDING A LOCAL HERO: Want to pick someone from your community?

Here are some tips:

Use local online groups or the local newspaper | Pay attention to the local news broadcasts | Search online for people who are making a difference | Find out who your local city council members are | Ask family, friends, and neighbors | Attend community events

CREW MEETING

Meet with your film crew to pitch your preferred hero and why you chose them. Once everyone gives their pitch, vote as a crew to pick the hero that you will make a film on