

Local Heroes

Activity 6

PURPOSE: To encourage young people to demonstrate actions and attitudes that contribute to their development as citizens both of their own communities and of the world.

TIME: Initial brainstorming will require one half hour. Group discussions and additional research will require class time over a period of several weeks.

METHOD:

Ask young people to define the word "hero". Who are their heroes? Ask them to monitor newspapers and magazines for photos and stories of people who are heroes. Have the young people discuss in groups:

- Describe the hero. Write a story about her or him.
- Discuss in groups, how many of these people are from the sports or entertainment industry? How many are doing community work? How many are peace makers? Are any of these people contributing to a better understanding of the world outside our communities? How is the world a better place due to the actions of these heroes?
- Encourage the students to research the life of a local hero. Interview someone in the community who has made a positive difference.

EXTENSIONS:

Have students make a new list of heroic qualities and ask them to brainstorm ideas about how they can model these attitudes/actions. Design an award for heroism. Assign students partners to observe for one week/month. At the end of the time period, each student writes a nomination for his or her partner, stating something that this person did that was heroic. Have an awards ceremony where each child is recognized for his or her contribution to making the school and community a better place.



Ask the person particularly about his or her childhood. What were the things she or he learned growing up that really made a difference in the way this person saw the world? Look at the way things have changed in the world during this person's lifetime. Make this person's life story really come alive! Present it to the class in words, pictures, music.

Ask students if their ideas on what makes a hero have changed. Perhaps the students can hold an event where local heroes are invited to speak at the school.

**My
hero!**



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*Children's appeal to world
leaders
Rio de Janeiro
1992*