

Milton Hershey and the Qualities of a Hero

Grade Level— 6-8

Standards— Pennsylvania Academic Standards for History: 8.1.6C, 8.1.9C, 8.2.6A, 8.2.9A, 8.3.6A, 8.3.9A, 8.4.6A, 8.4.9A

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening: 1.1.8B, 1.6.8A, 1.6.8D, 1.6.8E, 1.6.8F, 1.8.8A, 1.8.8B, 1.8.8C

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Civics and Government: 5.2.6E, 5.2.6G

Common Core: W.7.9, SL.8.3, W.8.7

Materials Needed—

- www.myhero.com (optional)
- Poster board (optional)
- Computer with internet (optional)

Teacher Background—

After visiting *The Hershey Story*, the class will brainstorm to choose the qualities that make a person a hero and then use the list to determine if Milton Hershey was a hero. Students will then use the list to help them choose someone they think is a hero (besides Milton Hershey.) Each student will then create a product (PowerPoint, Poster, webpage, etc.) that demonstrates and explains why that person is a hero based on the criteria the class chose. Finally, each student will bring to class a picture of their person to create a classroom Hero's Mural (which, of course, includes Milton Hershey.)

Essential Question—

What are the qualities that make a person a hero? (Post this question in a visible location in your classroom)

Activating Strategies—

Step 1—Pair students with a partner as they enter the classroom. Have the pairs work together to brainstorm qualities of a hero.

Step 2—As a class, create a web diagram with HERO in the center and add to the web qualities of a hero.

Step 3—As a class, decide if any qualities can be merged and eliminate at least 3 qualities to make the web more manageable.

Step 4—Discuss if Milton Hershey could be considered a hero based on the brainstorming web. Determine which qualities he possessed from the web.

Step 5—Explain that students will pick three qualities from the web to help them choose a hero. They may use the website myhero.com to help them come up with a hero.

Teaching Strategies—

Step 1—Working individually, students choose three qualities of a hero from the hero web that the class created.

Step 2—Students choose a hero based on the three qualities of a hero they chose. Students may have a hero in mind, but if they don't, they may check out the MyHero website at myhero.com to see hundreds of examples of heroes.

Step 3—Hero Product Option A—Students create a PowerPoint about their hero. PowerPoint should include pictures, biographical information, and how they relate to the chosen qualities of a hero.

Option B—Students create posters about their heroes. Poster should include pictures, biographical information, and how they relate to the chosen qualities of a hero.

Step 4—Each student will bring in a picture of his/her hero. The class will then create a Heroes Mural Bulletin Board.

Summarizing Strategies—

1. Hero Web
2. Hero Product