

Heroes Rise: Human Interest Article

Driving Question: What do our heroes say about us?

Background

[Newspaper journalists](#) research and write stories for national, regional and local press. As well as news and politics, they report on sports, arts and culture, science and business. They also cover national and local events, entertainment and human interest stories.

Role

You have been hired by The Mountaineer, which publishes both a print and digital version of its paper, to write a human interest story on a local hero.

Task

In a news article, report on a significant human interest story. It is important that you present the person and the event in such a way that it evokes an emotional response from the reader. You should also provide your readers with enough detail to fully understand the significance of the event. You will interview a real person from the community and write about this individual's memorable moment (an act of bravery; an example of perseverance; overcoming an obstacle or beating the odds; achieving a long term goal). You will also provide a visual portrait (or two) of the hero.

PROCEDURE

1. Invitation (in person / phone)
2. Brainstorm interview questions (based on assignment requirements)
3. Mock interview (questions / taking notes)
4. Practice taking photographic portraits
5. Interview / Photo session
6. Write article (1st draft) / Use Google documents
7. Peer feedback / Comment Coaching
8. Rewrite article (2nd draft)
9. Edit & proofread
10. Rewrite article (3rd draft)
11. Photo feedback (select best examples for feedback)
12. Publish / Save as a PDF

Format

- **Masthead:** Have a masthead for your newspaper (name of the newspaper) -- **optional**
- **Layout and Design:** Must be in 'justified' columns, has headline, provide a publication date, and uses captions to describe the visual
- **Lead:** Answer the W5H questions in the lead paragraph (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?). As a journalist, you will be investigating a local hero's memorable moment? Who was involved and how they were connected? The importance of where the event took place? And what was the outcome of the event?
- **Body of the Article:** Provide quoted dialogue from in-depth interviews with the hero that reveals the person's involvement in the event and how he or she was affected by it. Also, explain the important details surrounding the event – what led up to the event? What was the outcome of the event? Did it change the course of the lives of those involved?
- **Closing:** Conclude your article with the plans of those involved for the future and/or what is to happen as a result of the event (memorable moment).

Audience

Peers, teacher, professional journalists and photographer(s)

Human Interest Article Checklist

Reviewer's Name: _____

Journalist's Name: _____

- Have you included the **newspaper's name**? **Optional**
- Is there a **date** when the article is published?
- Does the article include **headline**, that grabs your **attention? attention? attention?**
- Have you included a **visual** or two and **captions**?
- Is the article designed so that it has a **professional** look and feel? (columns, effective layout, headings, captions, byline, etc.)
- Does it report the story with **pertinent details**?
- Are there reactions or comments (**quotes**) about the event/moment?
- Does it **capture** the hero in his or her heroic moment?
- Does it create an **emotional response** in the reader?
- Is it **well-written** and **organized**?
- Are there any spelling, punctuation and capitalization **errors**?
- Is it **single-spaced**?
- Is it **word-processed**? (the final draft must be word-processed!)



Photo credit: [Roger H. Goun](#) (CC BY 3.0)

Credit: This was inspired by Ms. Diana Sanchez's [A Hero in My Eyes Project](#).

FYI: This document is part of a PBL project: [Heroes Rise](#).