



Hallway of Heroes

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Grade level: 8

Length: 1 week

Introduction

A global tragedy like September 11th can sometimes obscure the impact it had on individual lives. As demonstrated in this excerpt from the HBO documentary [What Happened on September 11](#), hearing a personal story can shine a light on the effects of terrorism on people's everyday lives, and allows the students to relate to someone who was directly affected by the attacks.

Watch the [Understanding 9/11 Through Personal Stories](#) excerpt, then explore this lesson plan to see how an oral history can be a tool to teach 9/11.

Objective

Students will create a "Hallway of Heroes" where people can be inspired to do good deeds in honor of community heroes.

Common Core Standards

Comprehensive Common Core Alignments at end of lesson plan.

English Language Arts Standards for Writing: 4, 5

English Language Arts Standards for Speaking & Listening: 5

Resources

- [Understanding 9/11 Through Personal Stories](#) Excerpt
- ["What Happened on September 11"](#), HBO
- [911day.org](#) video

Preparation

1. Begin the lesson by asking students what the word hero means to them, thinking about the characteristics or personality traits that they think make someone a hero.
2. Brainstorm real-life heroes in your community. (Examples include doctors, firefighters, EMTs, etc.)
3. Write students' answers on the board.

Activity

1. Discuss personal examples/stories that students may have about first responders and how they have positively influenced their lives.
2. Watch the video on [911day.org](#) to explain the "good deed" project to the students and decide which type of personal heroes they will be honoring.



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3. Students will then write a friendly letter to their hero including the following:

Dear _____,

Paragraph 1: includes but is not limited to who you are, why you are writing this letter, why you selected this person, etc.

Paragraph 2: includes but is not limited to what you want to know about the hero, why you want to know it, how 9/11 affected their life, etc.

Paragraph 3: thank them for being your hero and their bravery and heroism, for their time, and politely request a response (text, email, or address).

Sincerely,

Your name

4. Students will create a poster board including pictures, quotes, images, and original artwork to pay tribute to their hero. These will be hung up in the classroom or in the hallway as a “Hallway of Heroes”

Assessment/Reflection

Students will compose a brief reflection about what they learned throughout the experience, whether or not their idea of a hero has changed, and a good deed that they will do in honor of their hero on September 11th.

Common Core Alignments

These alignments were written for the 8th grade level. However, this lesson can easily be adjusted for use in other grades and corresponds to the following Common Core Standards. Student assessments and expectation may vary depending upon grade level and ability.

ELA Standards for Writing

Production and Distribution of Writing

- Standard 4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Standard 5: With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.

ELA Standards for Speaking & Listening

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

- Standard 5: Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.