

American Heroes & Good Citizenship

by Tori Rice

Third Grade
History Social Science Academic
Standards

3.4.2 Discuss the importance of public virtue and the role of citizens, including how to participate in a classroom, in the community, and in civic life.

3.4.6 Describe the lives of American heroes who took risks to our freedoms.

Students investigate the lives of American heroes, bringing one of them to life in a dramatic presentation that includes a question and answer session. Students compare and contrast the qualities and accomplishments of two different heroes, inferring what might have happened if the heroes didn't do what they did to secure our freedoms.

Materials	paper, pencil or pen, colored pencils, crayons or markers, props, costume pieces (hats, glasses, cardboard, sheets, etc.), American Hero Research Notes graphic organizer
Vocabulary	Monologue - one character talking
Step one	Investigate two American heroes (e.g., Anne Hutchinson, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Fredrick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr.). Have a household member research with you. Take notes using the American Hero Research Notes graphic organizer, one for each hero.
Step two	Write a first person monologue. Choose one of the two American heroes you have researched and write a first person monologue as the American hero of your choice. Have your household member focus on the other American hero. Start your monologue with: I am (name of American hero).
Step three	Become and act as your American Hero! Dress up, use props and invite other family members to enjoy your oral presentation. After you deliver your monologue, do a question & answer session in character. Your household member will do the same.
Step four	Reflect – Discuss with your household. What similar qualities do the two American Heroes have in common? How are they different? What would have happened if the heroes hadn't done what they did as citizens? What qualities of these heroes are similar to you (do you share any traits)? What could you do to be a good citizen in your classroom? In your household? In your community?