

OneWorld Progressive Institute, Inc.

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OneWorld's Motto:

"It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

DEFINING A HERO

An Essay Contest for 7th And 8th Grade Students 2009

The second annual **2009 OneWorld Essay Contest** invites seventh and eighth grade students in New Haven, Hamden, and West Haven to write an original essay about the character traits, qualities and extraordinary deeds that distinguish a hero. We are looking for thoughtful young voices who will share with us their personal perspective on what constitutes a hero: how is a hero defined; how are heroes made; where do they come from; what are the differences and similarities between a celebrity and a hero; can a hero be a celebrity; can a celebrity be a hero; why do we need heroes? An anecdote about someone who might be considered a hero (child, adult, animal) should be included to complement the participant's **definition of a Hero**. In the case of an ideal hero who resides in the realm of the imagination, the student may tell the story using a fictional character.

The definition of a Hero should reflect the writer's understanding of the distinction between a popular idol - who gains the admiration of fans because of unique talents and special gifts - and someone who is admired because of the import of a spontaneous extraordinary act of dedication, courage and sacrifice. An awareness of the fact that very often a hero is someone who, during his/her lifetime, does not achieve prestige, celebrity status or affluence might aid students in arriving at the subtle differences between the idols of popular culture and the true heroes of this **2009 OneWorld Essay Contest**. Please type using a 12-point Times Font only. **Teachers are asked to select the best essays in each class and submit those for evaluation.**

Eligibility

The contest is open to all 7th and 8th grade public school students in New Haven, Hamden and West Haven.

Entries will be accepted through March 30, 2009, at address: **Essay Contest 2009, OneWorld Progressive Institute, Inc., P. O. Box 8662, New Haven, CT 06531.**

Each entry must include: student's name, age, address, phone number, e-mail (if applicable), name of school, name of teacher and grade. Every winner must be able to answer specific questions about his or her essay.

Awards

OneWorld will select four winners and six finalists. The winners will be announced by May 21, 2009.

The winners will be awarded Education Bonds and other prizes. In 2008 winners received \$775.00 in cash prizes

The top-winning essay will be published on *OneWorld's* website and in other media.

The winners and finalists will be presented on Citizen's TV's on the program "**21st Century Conversations**" scheduled for late May or early June 2009.

This contest is sponsored by One World Progressive Institute, Inc. – a non-profit organization dedicated to health literacy, education on every level and to constructive civic engagement.

DEFINING A HERO

ESSAY REGISTRATION FORM

OneWorld Progressive Institute, Inc.

P. O. Box 8662, New Haven, CT 06531

ALL Essays are to reach this address NO LATER THAN MARCH 30, 2009. Essays that reach us later than this date will NOT be evaluated.

Students are invited to write and submit an essay on a minimum of one single-spaced page and a maximum of two typed single-spaced pages; only 12-point Times Roman Font is to be used. Essays will be valued for their originality, thoughtful/creative consideration of the topic, quality of writing expression, clarity, organization, elaboration of topic ideas, and overall presentation.

All contest participants are required to include this registration form.

Student's Name _____

Age _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Number _____

Name of School _____

Town _____

Grade _____

Student's Signature _____

Date submitted _____