

# **Argumentative Essay: Prewriting**

## **Extended Writing Project Prompt and Directions:**

Every day the media run headlines celebrating heroes among us. The firefighter who charges into the burning building to save an infant is a hero. The nurse who risks her own life to help patients with infectious diseases—she’s a hero too. What qualities do all heroes have in common? What makes one person more heroic than another?

In this unit, you have been reading both nonfiction and fiction texts about people who are considered American heroes. Recognizing that not everyone agrees on what it means to be a hero or who our heroes are, write an argumentative essay that identifies an individual from the selections in this unit who you feel best exemplifies the qualities of a hero.

To support your ideas you will include textual evidence from at least one selection in the textbook and research from one other print or digital source.

## **Your argumentative essay with research should include:**

- **an explicitly stated claim about the individual who you think is the most heroic**
- **a logically organized argument supported by persuasive reasons and relevant textual evidence**
- **information from one unit text and at least one other print or digital source**
- **citations of your sources and a Works Cited page**
- **a conclusion that restates your claim, sums up your reasons and evidence, and leaves your readers with an original thought about the topic**

Your first step—even before you started thinking about the person or group from the unit that you will write about—was to define “hero”. Now is the time to start thinking about the qualities of a hero. Answer these questions about the people you read about in the unit or in our StudySync textbook. As you answer the questions, think about your ideas about heroism. You can add your own questions to the list below.

- Which person from the unit was the bravest? What did he or she do that was brave? Did he or she feel brave at the time?
- Which person from the unit made the greatest sacrifice? What did he or she give up? Why?
- Which person from the unit did the most to make the world a better place to live? Give an example of that person’s actions.
- Which person from the unit do I admire most? Why?

