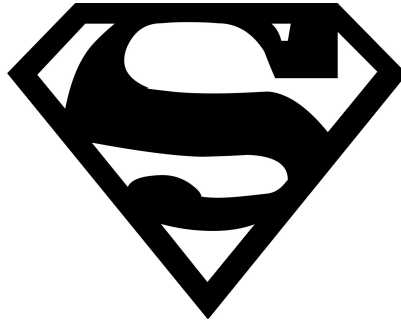


## Why We All Need Heroes by Hitendra Wadhwa

*"You are lucky in life if you have the right heroes. I advise all of you, to the extent you can, to pick out a few heroes," --Warren Buffett, Warren Buffett Speaks (2007).*

We're all so jaded nowadays by any talk of heroes. Our icons keep falling from grace, in politics, business, and sports. (At least our comic book heroes seem safe for now.) Why then, you may ask, is Warren Buffett recommending that you look for heroes to study?

As you strive to become a better leader, it will help you have heroes--great leaders you respect, relate to, and get roused up by. . . Okay, so why should you have heroes? Great leaders demonstrate that it is in fact okay to dream the impossible, to rebel against the mindsets of your times, as long as you are committed to relentlessly pursuing this dream.



**It's your turn. . .**

Wadhwa broaches the question that many of us may ask today-- "Do heroes even exist anymore?" As we begin reading *The Odyssey*, people will agree or disagree that Odysseus has the qualities of a true hero. In order to truly form an opinion about Odysseus, we must further shape our view of what a hero really is.

Your job will be to take a close look at society around you. Search through your friends, family, government officials, or city workers. Look beyond your community to selfless individuals around the world. Examine your personal definition of heroism in order to choose one individual who seems to encompass the term "hero".

### **Directions:**

\*Using *only* Galenet or Galileo, research an article about your chosen hero. Then, in MLA format, type a one page essay detailing why this person is a hero. You are only allowed to use one direct quote, and the rest of the essay must be in your own words but include *parenthetical documentation*. (author's last name + pg. #). You will print these and present them to the class.

**\*Extra credit:** Include some type of visual (PowerPoint, Prezi, poster, video etc.) to accompany your essay.

### **Examples of parenthetical documentation:**

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

