

## Unit 2: Defining Courage Ninth Grade Literature

### Essay: Who is the Bravest of Them All?

**Due Date: Monday, December 14th**

**TOPIC:** Throughout this unit, we have read about, studied, and discussed courageous characters from literature and brave historical figures. Out of all of these people, who do you think displays the most courage? Is it Rainsford, who looks death in the face? Or is it Malala, who stood up for what she believed in? You will write an essay that argues that **one** of the characters/people from this unit is the **bravest of them all**. Be sure to include the following information about the person of your choice in your essay:

- His or her courageous **actions** (What does he or she do that makes him or her brave?)
- His or her bold **words** (What does he or she say that makes him or her courageous?)
- **A counterpoint** (Who is he or she braver than and how?)
- At least **three quotes (in MLA format)** from his or her short story, essay, speech, letter, or autobiography.

**WRITING PROCESS:** You will follow the steps below in order to write your essay. We will work together throughout this process so that you may learn how to write the strongest essay possible.

1) **Brainstorm**

2) **Thesis statement**

3) **Rough draft**—an outline of the introduction paragraph, body paragraphs, and conclusion paragraph.

4) **Revised draft**—a revision of the introduction paragraph, body paragraphs, and conclusion paragraph.

5) **Final draft**—completed essay with proper MLA formatting.

**LENGTH AND FORMAT:** This assignment should be structured as a formal, argumentative essay and **1 to 2 pages in length**. It **must be typed**, double-spaced, and in 12-point Times New Roman font (**in accordance with MLA standards**).

**DUE DATE:** By midnight on **Monday December 14th**. Remember, the late work policy is in effect. This essay counts as a **test grade**. Essays must be stapled upon submission. Don't forget to have a backup for your essay; essay deletion, computer viruses, etc., will not be acceptable excuses for late submission. You should also have your **rubric attached** to your essay when you turn it in. If you do not have your rubric, **5 points** will be deducted from the essay grade.

### FROM THE STUDENT HANDBOOK:

**Academic Honesty:** Coursework submitted by a student must be the student's own, and original work. Students shall not cheat on any assignment by giving or receiving unauthorized assistance, or commit the act of plagiarism. Students who commit such acts are subject to receiving a grade of zero (0) on the assignment as well as disciplinary action.

**Typing Days:** December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> will be days designated to type in class. Lap tops will be provided. You must treat the school's technology with respect and use it appropriately or you will lose the privilege of using it.

**Defining Courage Essay Rubric**  
English I Mrs. Peden

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Possible Points	Points Earned
<b>MLA Formatting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced, pages numbered, correct heading, 1" margins, etc.</li> <li>-½ for each error</li> </ul>	10	
<b>Length</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 to 2 pages</li> <li>-5 for each ½ missing page</li> </ul>	10	
<b>Grammar, spelling, and punctuation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-1 for every 5 errors</li> </ul>	10	
<b>Quotes and In-text citations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 3 quotes, quotation marks used, author (and page numbers) included, parentheses, period properly placed, etc.</li> <li>- ½ per error, -5 for missing quote</li> </ul>	15	
<b>Formal Essay Tone and Style</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responds directly to the prompt, uses <b>third person</b> point of view, avoids obvious statements, avoids repetitiveness, avoids opinionated statements, writing is clear and easy to understand, etc.</li> <li>- ½ to -5, depending the severity and frequency of the error</li> </ul>	15	
<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides relevant background information, thesis statement as last sentence, three-point thesis statement, thesis is the "map," etc.</li> <li>- ½ to -5, depending the severity and frequency of the error</li> </ul>	15	
<b>Body</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Properly structured according to T.E.A.L., clear Topic sentences, specific and strong Evidence, thorough Analysis, effective Link, etc.</li> <li>- ½ to -5, depending the severity and frequency of the error</li> </ul>	15	
<b>Conclusion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restate thesis in a new way, summarize argument, address the greater significance of the topic, explain author's point/message, etc.</li> <li>- ½ to -5, depending the severity and frequency of the error</li> </ul>	10	
<b>Total</b>	100	
<b>Comments</b>		

