

Instructions

The Tragic Hero biography

Lesson Objectives:

- 1) To reveal how photos can have just as much power as words.
- 2) To explore the biography genre, and make connections to modern figures who display traditional characteristics of the tragic hero
- 3) To create a persuasive media text

As you began this unit of study, you learned the term tragic hero. Traditionally, there was a "formula" that was followed to create such a character. The character:

- is born of noble birth
- is responsible for own fate
- incorporates many admirable "heroic" qualities
- has a tragic flaw
- is doomed to make a serious error in judgment ("hamartia")
- falls from great heights or from high esteem
- realizes he/she has made an irreversible mistake
- faces and accepts responsibility for own fate
- faces and accepts death with honor

For this assignment you are to apply the tragic hero "formula" to a real-life person or literary figure other. Throughout history, famous political leaders, celebrities, athletes and fictional characters have demonstrated very human flaws, flaws that ultimately may have led to their downfall from a position of high status.

You must now research one of the following figures – or an individual of your own choice – and create a small poster explaining why this individual deserves a place in the Hall of Shame. Your tragic hero may not demonstrate every aspect of the pattern, but must show evidence of a serious flaw or error in judgment that leads to a fall.

Possible Tragic Heroes: (or you can come up with one of your own)

Political Figures: Rob Ford, Julius Caesar, Anne Boleyn, Bill Clinton

Celebrities: Lindsay Lohan, Amy Winehouse, Jian Ghomeshi

Athletes: Tiger Woods, Barry Bonds, Mike Tyson, Jason Gambini

Fictional Characters: Walter White, Macbeth, Anakin Skywalker, Harry (spiderman)

Create your well-designed, attractive 8 ½ x 11 poster should include a prominent visual. Your poster text must provide relevant biographical information and details to explain why your nominee deserves to be considered as a Tragic Hero. Refer to as many aspects of the formula as you can. Explain any discrepancies between your nominee and the formula. (For example, even if your nominee rehabilitated him/herself, the flaw may be so strong that this person deserves a place of honor with the greatest of tragic heroes.) Be creative and persuasive!!