

Moana: The Modern Hero
Mini-Essay - 100 summative points



Due _____ - hard copy AND turnitin.com

After reading Greek mythology and *The Odyssey*, and discussing the Epic, heroism, and the Hero's Journey, it is now your chance to make an argument about how a modern film features a modern hero.

Disney's *Moana* features a protagonist/hero (named Moana) who undergoes an epic adventure. After watching the film, you will be provided with an introduction and conclusion paragraph addressing the following prompt:

How does Moana represent a modern Epic Hero?

- **Your task is to write the thesis and three body paragraphs to complete this essay.**
- Your thesis should list the focus for each of your body paragraphs
 - Example: Moana represents a modern hero because ____, ____, and ____.
- Your body paragraphs should follow CBEARx2 format (in this case, evidence will take the form of either direct quotes or paraphrased specific examples from the film)

Requirements:

- Must include a thesis and three body paragraphs
- Typed, double spaced, 12 point font
- Include MLA heading, double spaced, in the following order
 - Name
 - Teacher's name
 - Class and period
 - Date
 - Day Month Year (ex. 26 November 2018)
 - Use the date the assignment is due
- Pay careful attention to grammar, mechanics, punctuation, spelling, etc.

**Applicable sections of the English Department Rubric will be used to grade this assignment (rubric available on my website: www.h12beatty.weebly.com)*

Introduction

Heroism may be a subjective concept, changing according to one's morals and values, but societies tend to reach some agreement on what constitutes a heroic individual. Throughout history, civilizations have passed along stories about epic heroes and their journeys. These characters are often dauntless, physically strong men who embark on grand adventures, slaying monsters and facing tremendous hardships along their way. Ultimately, these heroes obtain some treasure or great wisdom through their journey, returning home with fame and renown. Stories that follow this basic structure still surround us in our modern world, but many have departed from earlier traditions in various ways. Unlike the heroes of ancient times, for example, modern heroes need not always be male, supernaturally gifted, or perfect conformists. The 2016 Disney film, *Moana*, features a heroic female protagonist that in many ways reflects the qualities of classic heroes; the character Moana, however, also puts a modern spin on the classic hero archetype. [INSERT THESIS STATEMENT HERE].

Conclusion

Every society has its specific ideas about heroism. Great bravery, strength, cunning, and tenacity are just a few of the traditional qualities possessed by countless heroes from stories throughout human history, and *Moana*'s hero is no exception to this rule. However, Moana represents a modern hero because, in addition to these traditionally heroic traits, she contributes new and updated qualities to our notions of heroism, essentially helping to redefine the epic hero for our modern age. Moana is not an adult male with colossal biceps and a crew of loyal sailors at her back; instead, she is a teenager with little more than her passion and grit to guide her along her journey. Moana teaches her audience that heroism is inside of everyone; with dedication, perseverance, and courage, anyone can overcome the greatest challenges.