

**Super Hero/Shero
Villain/Villainess
Portfolio
“Living in the Real World”**

Proposal: To incorporate business writing into a unit that uses fantasy superhero/super villain creations to simulate real life situations. Parallel to the writing, students read a variety of genres with heroic themes.

This unit is designed for 7th grade Language Arts. It is to be used in parallel with novels, stories, and poems with heroic themes. It integrates standards from math, science, and social studies curriculums as well. The unit contains business writings, such as: a letter of complaint, a memorandum, a public service announcement, a resume, business cards, a business proposal, a social letter, a travel brochure, a friendly letter, and an advertisement. It also includes charts/graphs, diagrams, maps, and forms to be completed. Expository, persuasive, and descriptive writing, along with creative and critical thinking skills, are all covered in this unit. Most entries can also be created and published using computer programs.

The unit begins with each student’s creation of a superhero and super villain character. The creations are then taken through a series of incidents and situations. Each incident is instigated or resolved via business writing. For example: the student, who is the “citizen”, completes a complaint form to the Office of the Attorney General. The citizen also writes a letter of complaint to the superhero, informing him about the destructive actions of the super villain, and requesting the superhero’s assistance. The superhero then reacts and responds by sending a memorandum to his/her organization informing them of the matter, and so on. The portfolio ends with an interview between a reporter and both created characters. Each character is asked questions relating to the conquer or arrest of the super villain. Each interviewee’s responses reveal different points of view. The unit ends with a quiz on the business writing samples. If possible, it is fun and appropriate to cap the unit with a viewing of the film Superman. The students can complete an anticipation guide before the viewing and correct it after the viewing.

Each entry format is introduced, discussed, and then practiced using class discussions, examples/models, guided practice, and reinforcement activities. The students then work on their own product in class, at home, and in the computer lab. Due to the portfolio’s length, a rubric is used to assess it. Resources for this unit include the Internet, technology programs, texts, teacher-created material, professional books, and community resources.

The project takes approximately six weeks to complete. In addition to the writing portion, students read heroic stories, poems, and nonfiction material. With additional practice skill lessons, this unit could be a nine-week process.

Super Hero/Shero Portfolio Rubric

Name: _____

Basic Points

A	B	C	D	E	50	40-10	0
93 pts 23 complete accurate basic and entries in order	85 pts 19-22 complete accurate, basic and entries in order	77 pts 15-18 complete accurate, basic, and entries in order	70 pts 11-14 complete accurate, basic, and entries in order	60 pts 7-10 complete accurate basic, and entries in order	50 pts 5 entries	40-10 pts 10 pts. for each entry	No effort! Did not turn in!

Point Additions

2 pts. all typed	2 pts. extra effort, details, and information	1 pt. Graphics, neat and colorful	1 pt. originality	1 pt. Few or no errors in conventions
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Point Deductions

Content	Organization	Form	Conventions	Neatness
2 pts. lacking some info on a few entries	2 pts. A couple of entries are out of order	2 pts. Most entries follow format and/or a couple of entries in pencil	2 pts. Several errors in punctuation/ grammar throughout the portfolio	2 pts. A few sloppy entries
4pts. Lacking info and details on several entries	4pts. Several entries are out of sequence	4pts. Some entries follow format and/or several are done in pencil or on lined paper	4pts. Numerous errors in punctuation and grammar throughout, but does deduct from meaning	4 pts Several sloppy entries
6pts. Lacking relevant (needed for comprehension) details and info on numerous entries	6pts. Random Order	6pts. Few entries follow business format and/or most entries are written in pencil or on lined paper	6pts. Major errors in punctuation and grammar throughout. Errors deduct from meaning.	6 pts. Many sloppy entries

TOTAL POINTS: _____

Super Hero/Shero and Super Villain Table of Contents for Required Portfolio Entries

<u>Entry Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
Cover Page	
Table of Contents	1
Illustration of Super Hero/Shero	2
Profile of Super Hero/Shero	3
Family Tree of Super Hero/Shero	4
Illustration of Super Villain/Villainess	5
Profile of Super Villain/Villainess	6
Family Tree of Super Villain/Villainess	7
Complaint Form	8
Letter of Complaint	9
Memorandum	10
Public Service Announcement	11
Hero and Villain Business Proposals	12-13
Police Report	14
Hero and Villain Business Cards	15-16
Hero and Villain Advertisements	17-18
Hero and Villain Resumes	19-20
Hero and Villain Brochures	21-22
“Getaway” Map with Directions	23
Newspaper Heading and Caption	24
Hero and Villain Interviews/News Articles	25-26
Hero and Villain “Make-up” Chart	27-28
Hero and Villain Labeled Diagram	29-30
Villain Friendly Letter	31
Social Letter/Invitation	32
Social Letter/Thank you	33

***Notes:**

- If you complete any extra entries, your table of contents should be modified to match your entries.
- The titles of each page must be marked with your name

Task Explanation and Directions for Super Hero/Super Villain Portfolio Entries

1. **Cover Page:** Include title (can be names of hero and villain), student name, and date
2. **Table of Contents:** matches each individual portfolio (you may follow the table of contents that is modeled) which shows the basic requirements. If your entries are more than one page or if you have extra entries, your table of contents will look different.
3. **Hero/Shero Illustration:** can be drawn manually or printed from www.heromachine.com (be creative and original with your design. Think of what the epitome of a “super” hero and villain should be)
4. **Profile:** use the format provided in the example (you may use the model as a guideline and then add extra components if you would like)
5. **Family Tree:** needs to give the relatives and their relationships to each character (origin of creation and powers will relate directly to this entry). You may use Inspiration, Word, or draw manually.
6. **Complaint Form:** complete the form given to you; it is written to the Office of the Attorney General regarding the super villain; you, the citizen, are completing this form. You are making a formal complaint about the actions of the super villain.
7. **Letter of Complaint:** The letter is written by you, the citizen, in addition to the complaint form. It is addressed to the super hero/shero, describing your complaint and requesting assistance in ending the super villain’s havoc and destruction.
8. **Memorandum:** Written by the Super Hero/Shero to his/her organization regarding the letter of complaint. The memo is to inform them of the situation and to request support. The memo will also have a meeting time and place to gather to discuss. All information (place, time, names, etc.) may be completely fictional
9. **Public Service Announcement:** This PSA will inform the public about the super villain and his/her whereabouts and actions; as well as precautions, safety tips, and contact information. It is to be written for radio and visual locations. Graphics may be used if using for public display.
10. **Business Proposals:** These proposals should follow the example format. The proposals are to be written to a general public organization. One should be to persuade people to join the team of the super hero/shero, and one should be written on behalf of the super villain. Each proposal needs to be of a persuasive nature.
11. **Police Report:** Fill out the form that is given to you. Make up any information needed. You, the citizen, can be the victim or a witness.
12. **Business Card:** These cards will have the name of each character, a company or organization name, contact information, a logo, and a slogan for each character. The slogan needs to relate to the character’s traits.

Superheroes Unit-overview

13. **Advertisements**: Each ad will present a product used or created by each character. The ad must use two of the advertising techniques that were studied, and must have a graphic.
14. **Resumes**: The resumes will follow the format of the example. You, of course, will create this information for each of your characters.
15. **Brochure**: The brochure will highlight a travel destination that a character owns or has created for vacation prospects.
16. **“Getaway” Map**: This map will illustrate the escape route to be used by the super villain in case of an attempted capture. Written directions will also be included underneath the illustrated map.
17. **Newspaper Heading and Caption**: Above the picture of you, the citizen, you will put a Newspaper Heading highlighting the capture of the super villain. Below the picture, you will put a detailed description of the contents of the picture. You, the citizen, obviously played a major role in the capture of the super villain.
18. **Interviews**: Each interview will follow the example format. The interview will then be put into a newspaper article format, using the 5w-1h questioning format. The newspaper article needs to be of an informative nature.
19. **Chart or Graph**: Each graph will depict each character’s physical and mental “make-up”. Use qualities, powers, mental and emotional capabilities, etc. The graphs can be manually drawn or be formed on Excel or Word Programs. You may use a pie, line, circle, or other graph.
20. **Labeled Diagrams**: Each character will be illustrated. Then, label physical and mental characteristics of each character. Include gadgets and gizmos along with powers. Each part should contain a description. The outline of the character is sufficient.
21. **Friendly Letter**: This informal letter will be from the super villain to his/her counterparts or friends from villain jail.
22. **Social Letter(Invitation)**: This invitation will be to either a hero/shero or villain production, party, etc.. Follow the format from the example. Make sure to include all parts.
23. **Social Letter(Thank you)**: This thank-you letter will be from you, the citizen, to the super hero/shero thanking him/her for their assistance. Be sure to include all of the parts of the letter.