

**OUSD History/Social Studies
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**Preparing for the Fall, 2009 11th grade U.S. History Writing Assessment:
What does “heroic” mean?**

Below is a definition of an American hero – use the definition to complete the tasks below.

American Hero - A person of exceptional courage or ability, admired for his or her brave deeds and noble qualities - someone whose actions are the driving force behind an important social, political, or economic change that lifts the spirit of Americans and betters the situation of the country.

Task: Given the above definition, decide which action for each of the following pairs would be more heroic? Briefly explain your choice.

1)

A) Making a lot of money and keeping it all of it to support your family and future generations of your family.

or

B) Making a lot money and giving most of it away to support the betterment of society.

Your choice: _____ Explanation: _____

2)

A) Creating a successful and profitable business by eliminating competitors through any means necessary

or

B) Creating a successful and, maybe less profitable business, that plays fair with the competition.

Your choice: _____ Explanation: _____

3)

A) Creating a successful business that increases its profits by attempting to pay its workers as little as possible.

or

B) Creating a successful, and maybe less profitable business, that negotiates with its employees with a goal of paying a fair wage.

Your choice: _____ Explanation: _____

4)

A) Raising yourself from poverty to great wealth through your own initiative, hard work, and determination

or

B) Successfully maintaining and expanding, through hard work, an already established family business.

Your choice: _____ Explanation: _____

5)

A) As a business leader, delegating responsibility to partners and employees to carry out difficult decisions.

or

B). As a business leader, taking personal responsibility for carrying out difficult decisions.

Your choice: _____ Explanation: _____

