Student Name

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English 9 Honors

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U.S. Servicemen and Women: The True Heroes

 “There is no greater friend, and no worse enemy, than a U.S. Marine.” This is the official motto of the U.S. Marines Corp. They are famed to be the first into combat and the last to leave the fray. Many would call them heroes, like they would a favorite athlete or celebrity. But are such people worthy of the title “hero?” Better yet, are they in the same class of hero of not just the Marine Corp. but of all of the fighting men and women who have fought for our country’s freedom? Many of these athletes and celebrities are paid millions of dollars to sing, act or play a sport. The groups of people that make up the United States’ military are paid to battle off those who wish to jeopardize this country’s freedom and to die, if they are required to, in order to keep everyone safe. This is why many true heroes are all of the U.S Servicemen and Women who have fought and possibly died to keep us free and safe.

 The men and women who fight in the defense of this country are heroes. They are heroes for many reasons. They volunteer to kill other human beings in order to protect Americans, innocent civilians. Taking the life of another human being is not to be taken lightly: the psychological trauma that follows is only one of the horrors of war. These people, average citizens in the past, willingly subject themselves to the horrors of genocide, chemical weapons, death of new-found friends and other unspeakable acts. These experiences they have to come back with and remember for the rest their lives. They may even develop the dreaded PTSD, or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. This causes these people to sometimes flash back to the war. They also may not be able to sleep or become anxious and jumpy. And this is if they make it back home. More than a few soldiers have died in the line of duty; this is the ultimate sacrifice. To give up one’s life for the sake of others is a noble and *heroic* thing indeed. And these people willingly take all of these burdens in stride while defending their homes, families, friends and countless others in battle. If these people are not heroes, then none exist.

 All of the men in women who have fought for American lives overseas and American soil more than deserving of the title “hero.” No, these people are true heroes, and they should be in our minds and hearts forever. People are allowed to write their opinions on this topic because of the freedoms they protect for every American. May it always stay that way.

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| **Category** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** | **Score** |
| **Format** | Paper is formatted properly using the proper heading, 12 point, Times New Roman. It is also double spaced and the student’s title is centered. | The paper is missing 1 or 2 of these elements. | The paper is missing 3 or 4 of these elements. | The paper is missing 5 or more of these elements. | 4 |
| **Organization** | Essay is clearly formatted into an introduction, body paragraph(s), and a conclusion with each piece functioning properly. | Essay is formatted into an introduction, body paragraph(s), and a conclusion, but one of them is not functioning properly. | Essay is formatted into an introduction, body paragraph(s), and a conclusion, but two of them are not functioning properly. | Essay is not formatted properly. | 4 |
| **Thesis Statement** | The thesis statement clearly defines the concept of hero and provides focus (the example) for the body paragraph(s). | The thesis statement defines the concept of a hero, but does not provide the focus (the example) for the body paragraph. | The thesis statement somewhat defines the concept of a hero and does not provide the focus for the body paragraph. | There is no thesis statement. | 4 |
| **Example of Hero** | Example is specific, relevant and an explanation is given that show how the example helps to define the concept of a hero. | Example is specific and relevant, but explanation is incomplete or unclear on how the example helps to define the concept of a hero. | Example is somewhat specific, relevant, and explanation is incomplete or unclear. | Example is NOT relevant AND/OR is not explained. | 4 |
| **Spelling and Grammar** | There are 1-3 mistakes in spelling and/or grammar. | There are 4-6 mistakes in spelling and/or grammar. | There are 7-9 mistakes in spelling and/or grammar. | There are 10 or more mistakes in spelling and/or grammar. | 4 |
| **Comments: What a pleasure it was to read this essay. It has some great details and explanation as to what you think a hero is and I really find your voice to be incredible strong. Excellent job!** | **FINAL GRADE** | 20/20 |