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Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes
ARTEFFECT



For my capstone project, I utilized quite a few different learning modalities that were shared in the learning modules. Different activities I used to help students connect with the Unsung Heroes included: interactive polLEV to get students to think about what traits/values they thought were important, famous artworks about heroes to help students see how symbolism and the language of art can tell a story, the pair/share activity where one student would verbally share what they saw and another student would translate into a drawing.

At the start of every class we would listen to a short podcast (2min <https://www.hiddenbrain.org/myunsunghero/>) about an unsung hero and how it impacted someone positively. This really helped students get into the mindset on why this project was important and that by exhibiting positive traits/values that they too can be a hero within their community.

Learning outcomes that were achieved included shedding light on powerful under-appreciated figures, students learned that by embodying positive heroic attributes that they can have a positive impact, symbolism/visual storytelling in art, and researching a figure that they connected with and taking ownership in sharing that story.

I used two of my art classes to do this capstone project with: my Digital Illustration class and my Advanced Art class. We held an art show in May and displayed the Unsung Hero artworks with some added context about the idea/mission. All students who made an Unsung Hero artwork were asked to show their work. My guess is that around 100-125 people showed up to the art show. The event took place at school.

My takeaways: The students really enjoyed listening to the unsung hero podcast before working on their art and I think it put them in a helpful headspace. Students really were moved by their unsung heroes and I think giving them total freedom of choice helped with that. They really felt passionate about their stories. It was fun for me to try something new, especially with all of the help and insight from the learning modules!

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