



## Q2 • Storytelling • Elementary Upper Local Hero Profile

**Theme:** New Mexico's Contribution

**Time Required:** 2–3 class sessions

### Materials Needed:

- Research materials (books, articles, online resources)
- Notebooks and pencils
- Optional recording device (phone or tablet)
- Construction paper or cardstock with art supplies
- Bulletin board or display materials

### Activity Overview

In this activity, students explore storytelling through the lens of local heroes, individuals who make meaningful contributions to their community. Students research, write, and share short profiles celebrating these heroes, connecting classroom learning to real people who represent courage, creativity, and community care. This project encourages local inquiry and pride in New Mexico's people and places. It introduces students to oral history and the importance of listening, asking questions, and sharing stories that shape our collective memory.

### Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Identify and describe the actions and values that make someone a local hero.
- Conduct basic research or short interviews using oral history techniques.
- Create a written or visual profile to share their hero's story.
- Recognize that history is shaped by many people, not just national figures.

### Essential Questions

- Who are the heroes in our community, and what do they do?
- How can storytelling help us honor their contributions?
- What makes someone a hero?
- How do everyday people make history?



## How to Implement

- Identify potential local heroes: veterans, indigenous leaders, cultural figures, community organizers, scientists, first responders, founders of local institutions, or athletes.
- Research what made this person a hero and what qualities they share.
- If possible, meet or interview your hero (or someone who knew them).
- Collect newspaper articles, images, or quotes related to your hero.
- Compile the information into a Local Hero Profile and share it through a class bulletin board, collage, or school display.

## Inspired Conversation Topics

- What makes someone brave or kind?
- How do community helpers keep our neighborhoods strong?
- Why is it important to remember people from the past?
- How can storytelling bring people together?

## Connection to Statewide Theme

This activity aligns with the NM250 Storytelling: New Mexico's Contribution initiative, celebrating the power of storytelling to honor community voices. Educators may connect this project to a schoolwide Storytelling Assembly or the #MyNMStory campaign to share local hero stories statewide.

## Educator Tip

- Encourage students to ask permission before recording or writing someone's story.
- Model how to listen carefully and take respectful notes during interviews.
- Remind students that heroes can be family members, neighbors, or community helpers, not just famous people.
- Create a supportive environment where every story and voice is valued.