

# Courage Research Project

Students will have an opportunity to learn or practice research and presentation skills through this project. Teachers can determine if students will work independently or as a group, researching a past or present well-known figure who is a model of courage. Students will present a poster of their person, highlighting how the person showed/shows courage in the work that he or she did/does. They will also comment on the lessons that others have learned through the courage of this person. They will have 2-3 minutes to present and will have created an engaging visual poster to aid them in their presentation. Students can also have “speakers’ notes” on 1-2 notecards.

**Kindness Concept(s)**

Courage, Kindness

**Project Timeframe**

25-30 minutes

**Required Materials**

- Poster size: 24x36 inches (or as determined by the teacher)
- Art materials for poster development
- Note cards: 1-2 note cards allowed to aid in the presentation

Teachers can pre-select research topics or give students the opportunity to select from the supplied list (or a self-generated list). This project can dovetail with social studies or ELA as well.

Determine if students will work independently or in small groups (no more than 4 people). Give students the opportunity to select a research subject from the following list or from a list you generate (or let students pick a person on their own if they have someone they would like to research). Their research subject needs to be a person who has demonstrated courage as defined in the RAK lessons.

Here are some possible subjects:

- Rosa Parks
- Helen Keller
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Amelia Earhart
- Abraham Lincoln
- Mahatma Gandhi
- Nelson Mandela
- Harriet Tubman
- Mother Teresa
- Malala Yousafzai
- Neil Armstrong
- Marie Curie
- The Wright Brothers
- Jackie Robinson
- Mother Teresa
- Bethany Hamilton

**Poster components:**

1. At least 3 visual representations of the person and his/her contributions of courage.
2. Definition of courage
3. Summary of how the person demonstrated courage

4. One lesson this person can teach or has taught the rest of us about courage

Poster size: 24x36 inches (or as determined by the teacher)  
Note cards: 1-2 note cards allowed to aid in the presentation

Students should aim to create a visually appealing poster that highlights, specifically, the act or embodiment of courage by the person they studied and what we can learn from their example.

Allow three days for research, ideally online; if this is not possible, provide books or magazines students can use for research or schedule time in the school library. If using print research materials, ensure there are relevant materials available for the persons students have selected. In this case, teachers may want to pre-assign the research subjects based on available materials.

Allow two days for poster creation. Students may work on these outside of school and collaborate together (if in groups) during work time at school.

### **Wrap Up:**

Take 1-2 days to allow students to present their posters. Have students hang their posters up either in the classroom or in the hallway. Design a header or title for the poster section to highlight that these posters represent people of courage.

### **Proposed Lesson Outcomes:**

Students will:

- Conduct research on someone who has demonstrated courage in a public way.
- Create a poster representing the person and his/her act of courage.
- Present on the research findings.



DESIGNATED BY CASEL  
AS A RECOMMENDED  
PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL  
AND EMOTIONAL  
LEARNING.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs.

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>