**December 2010**

**Dear Family Member of a grade 10 Student,**

For the last month in English 10, we have explored the topic of **courage**. Together we have discussed what it means to have courage and have read short stories and various articles about people who have demonstrated courage in a variety of ways. We have read about a man chasing after a robber, characters facing their own fear, women surviving a grizzly bear attack, and Rosa Parks’s heroism. **Now it is time for the students to hear about the courage that a family member has demonstrated.**

Each student must interview one family member. The student is to ask the family member the following question: **“What are the** **three most courageous things** **that you have done in your life?”** Answering this question takes thought and time. I am certain that the students will be surprised by the answers. It is my hope that the students will take the time to listen to the stories of an elder and gain a deeper understanding of one of their family members. Please sign the students note taking sheet after the interview.

**With Gratitude,**

**Ms. Mitschrich**

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| --- |
| Purpose of “My Courageous Family Member” Assignment:   1. Students learn from and about a family member 2. Students practice the art of listening and taking notes during or after the interview 3. Students experience the process of writing: organizing information, creating an essay outline, writing an essay 4. Students honor, represent, and share the courageous acts that their family members have done in a creative way. This could be a poster, a video clip, a song, or a piece of art. |

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***My Courageous Family Member* Assignment:**

1. Interview a family member. Due:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. Ask the question: “What are the three most courageous things that you have done in your life?”
   2. Listen to their response and stories and take notes.
   3. Bring these notes to class along with the signature of the family member.
2. Outline. Due:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(You will have class time)
   1. Organize the information that you received in the interview
   2. Create an essay outline
3. Essay: First Draft. Due:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(You will have class time)
   1. Using your outline, write an essay about your courageous family member.
   2. Remember that you need an introduction paragraph, thesis statement, supporting paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph
4. Essay: Final Draft. Due:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. Have a classmate proof read and edit your essay
   2. Have the teacher look at it
   3. Re-write essay for final draft
   4. Hand it in.
5. Visual or Aural Representation. Due:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. Visually or aurally represent and share the courageous acts that your family members have done. This could be a poster, a video clip, a song, or a piece of art. How would you like to honor the courage your relative has shown?

***My Courageous Family Member***

**Interview**

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**“What are the** **three most courageous things** **that you have done in your life?”**

Family Member:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Courageous Act #1:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Courageous Act #2

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Courageous Act #3

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Signature of interviewee:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**My Courageous Family Member**

**Outline**

1. **Introduction** 
   1. Introduce who your family member is: name, age:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. You may want to include thoughts you had about your relative before and after doing the interview.
   3. The three courageous things my relative did:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Write a sentence introducing those three points:

*The three most courageous things my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_has done is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

1. **Supporting Paragraphs:**
2. **Courageous Act:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Topic Sentence:

*One of the most courageous things that\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_did was\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

Details: In point form; list the details of the courageous act and the reasons why it was so courageous.

* + - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Details:

* + - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Details:

* + - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Concluding Paragraph:**

Write a paragraph tying together your essay.

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**My Courageous Family Member**

**Essay**

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