

National Absolutely Incredible Kid Day

The 3rd Thursday in March is National Absolutely Incredible Kid Day! It's a day created by Campfire USA in 1997 to inspire and encourage kids to do amazing things by letting them know how incredible they are. Mentoring Minds believes every day is a great day to celebrate kids AND critical thinking. Since writing assessments are right around the corner, let's use this as a perfect opportunity to develop the **Create** critical thinking trait. Students will use their unique personalities and characteristics to create a new Absolutely Incredible superhero and extend their creativity to develop an informational writing piece.



Note: Preview literature and Internet websites for appropriate content to match your district guidelines.

Getting Started



Critical Thinking Trait Focus—Create: *I use my knowledge and imagination to express new and innovative ideas.* Review the **Create** critical thinking trait with students and explain they will be using this trait to help recreate themselves as a superhero.

Learning Standards Focus—plan a first draft using a range of strategies; developing an engaging idea; synthesize information to create new understanding.

Vocabulary—characteristic, trait, strength, central idea, evidence, structure

Materials—**Think It Out** page; crayons, map colors, or markers; writing paper

Instruction

Activity Directions:

1. Introduce students to personal traits using a short title or excerpt to read aloud. (See Literature Suggestions.)
2. Share with students that the 3rd Thursday in March is National Absolutely Incredible Kid Day, a fun day to celebrate the uniqueness of kids everywhere. Invite discussions about personal strengths and use the time to introduce vocabulary such as characteristic, trait, strength, and evidence.
3. Prompt students with thought-provoking questions to facilitate the development of the **Create** critical thinking trait. Examples might include:
 - a. "What is the underlying message?"
 - b. "In what ways can you connect with ___?"
 - c. "What are the pros and cons of ___?"
4. Allow students to work individually, in pairs, or in small groups to explore their own personal strengths using situational evidence or examples.
5. Guide students as they select and combine their personal strengths on the Think It Out page to reveal their own personal superpower. Encourage students to create a self-portrait that clearly illustrates their personal strengths.

Reflect

After students have **Created** their personal superhero persona, facilitate a discussion about their thinking and learning. Guide students as they focus on how the **Create** critical thinking trait helped them process through the task. Emphasize the importance of using their knowledge coupled with their imagination to **Create** new ideas.

Literature Suggestions:

Books Featuring Personal Strengths: *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown, *Drawn Together* by Minh Le, *A Bike Like Sergio's* by Maribeth Boelts, *Her Right Foot* by Dave Eggers, *Emmanuel's Dream* by Laurie Ann Thompson, *The Juice Box Bully* by Bob Sornson and Maria Dismondy

Additional Web Resources:

Hidden Superpower Quiz: <https://youtu.be/IINEAUTrki4>

Superhero Wiki for Kids: <https://youtu.be/l4Wv3J2trMs>

Kid President: <https://youtu.be/tgF1Enrgo2g>

Extend the Activity

Guide students as they use their newly created superhero persona as a topic for informational writing.

READ the following quotation.

“The truth is that there’s something unique about each and every one of us. Everyone has a superpower of one kind or another.” –Lizzie Velazquez

THINK about the personal strengths and characteristics that might become your superpower.

WRITE about your personal strengths and explain what makes it your personal superpower.

Think It Out!

Choose 3 traits that clearly describe you and blend them together to find your personal superpower.

Flexible

Smart
Competitive
Self-confident
Natural Leader

Calm

Determined

Perceptive

Kindhearted
Humble
Honest

Curious

Patient
Trustworthy

On time
Organized

Creative

Capable
Neat

Focused

Hard-working

Outspoken

Independent

Reflective

Charming
Persuasive
Resourceful
Mature

Concerned

Supportive

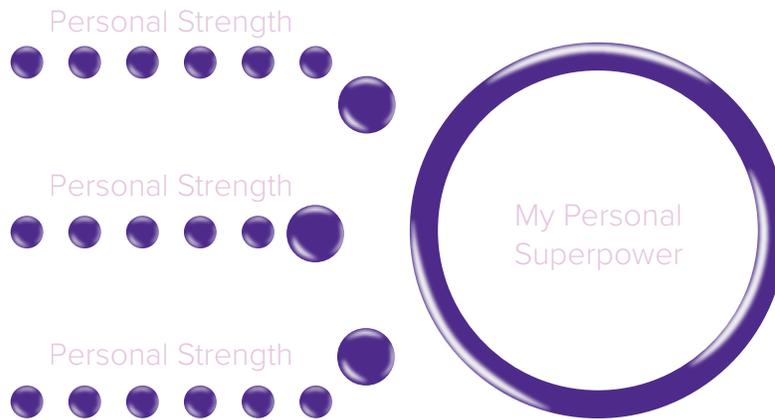
Respectful

Polite

Helpful

Considerate

Team Player



Use the space below to create a self-portrait of your superhero persona in action.