

H1 Personal Composition | Debate

‘We live in an un-heroic age’ (2013)

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Sean Finnegan and today I am here to oppose the motion that we live in an unheroic age. This statement is a refutable, erroneous lie concocted by the pessimistic push-overs of our generation. It is unequivocal that we live in a valiant era, where each day we hear news of an unsung hero whose courageous acts will echo in our minds for longer than we care to admit. This is not an un-heroic age; this is *the* heroic age! Over the course of the next few moments I will demonstrate to you why.

To understand the true meaning of ‘heroic’, we mustn’t treat the word hero as a noun but as a verb. Once we do this, we begin to realize how heroic of a society we are. Every waking hour of each day nurses, doctors, teacher, soldiers and bus drivers serve selflessly to an unappreciative society. These are our local heroes, the ones who make our trivialities possible. Ladies and gentlemen, what happens when you take these eminent individuals out of the equation? Pandemonium. Last year during the bus strikes and the ‘blue flu’ over 15,000 inimitable members of the workforce were unable to attend work, according to the Central Statistics Office, because they had no transport or did not feel comfortable with the unlawful streets. So, it is absolutely incontrovertible that these selfless members of our great nation are the glue that binds our communities and ultimately our society. Ladies and gentlemen, these people are heroes by any and all definitions and we live in a heroic age without a shadow of doubt.

We live in an era where technology is prevalent in every aspect of day to day life. It is an intrinsic part of our existence. Arthur C. Clarke once said that “any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic”. The last 50 years has seen unprecedented developments in technology to the extent that Clarke’s statement is realized. Millions of men and women around the globe are dedicating their lives to an

enhanced future for humanity. These men and women who operate altruistically behind closed doors are the heroes of modernity. Where doctors and teachers can be seen as the foundation of our majestic species, the scientists, engineers and innovators are the pillars upon which we strive for new heights each and every day. Genetic engineering, renewable energy and interplanetary existence are just some of the things that come to mind when we contemplate the future. All of these ambitions will one day come to fruition because of these philanthropical individuals.

Ladies and gentlemen, this argument has underscored the erroneous and insulting nature of my opponents' assumptions. We live in a heroic age and the evidence is to be seen all around us. A hero is not a noun, it is a verb, and there are billions around the globe doing what is necessary for those around them. I would like to finish this debate with a quote from John Campbell that encapsulates the essence of heroism. "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself".

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention.