





- What is going on in each picture? What is similar and different about them?
- What do you know about the people and what values do they each represent? What are the differences between these people as role models?
- Which of the three do you personally think serves as the best role model, and why? What flaws does this person have?

TOPIC CARD

My Hero

DISCUSSION

Who do you think of as your heroes and role models? In what ways do they inspire you? What different role models have you had at different times of your life?

Do celebrities and other public figures have a responsibility to be good role models? In what ways and why?

Can you think of real-life examples of how role models have had a clear positive or negative influence on people around you?

A lot of people say "Never meet your heroes." What do you think this means? What do you think about this idea? Has a hero or role model ever let you down? Talk about it.

Are your personal heroes and role models similar to you in ethnicity, class background, gender and so on? Do you think that having or not having representation (= people like you) in the media, sport, movies etc. is important?

JUST IMAGINE

A friend tells you that their younger sibling idolises you and has begun imitating your behaviour and repeating things you say. You didn't do anything to encourage the situation and didn't want it, but now your friend believes you have a parent-like responsibility as a role model. What will you do? In what ways do you think you may be setting a good or bad example? How could you – or should you – change your behaviour? How does it make you feel?

QUOTES

> *"I don't think it is important to be a role model, because if you are a role model, you are pretending to be someone else."*
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> **Zendaya**, actress

> *"Your heroes will always disappoint you and let you down. But the villains will usually live up to their reputations."*
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> **Noah Smith**, politics blogger

> *"I'm not a role model. Just because I dunk a basketball doesn't mean I should raise your kids."*
>
> **Charles Barkley**, basketball player

WORD BANK

to admire / to respect / to model oneself on sb / to emulate sb('s behaviour) (= to copy what they do) / hero worship, to hero-worship sb / idol, to idolise / to set an example, a good/bad example / to inspire, to be an inspiration (to sb) / hero / role model / to judge / to (re)evaluate / to copy / imitation, to imitate / to stan (sb) (= to be an obsessive fan of them; slang) / fan / supporter / to influence, to be/have an influence (on sb) / influencer / strengths and weaknesses / flaws, to be flawed / to question / suspicious, suspicion, (to) suspect / dodgy, suss (= questionable or suspicious; slang) / to put sb on a pedestal (= to believe them to be more perfect than they are) / guru

WATCH OUT!

False friends and common mistakes

- **Suspicion** [sə'spɪʃn] is a feeling (usually negative) based on incomplete evidence or gut feeling (instinct or prejudice). The verb is **to suspect** [sə'spɛkt]. **Suspect** ['sʌspɛkt] as an adjective means questionable or not to be trusted. **Suspicious** [sə'spɪʃəs] can mean the same, or it can mean **feeling suspicion**. A **suspect** ['sʌspɛkt] is a person believed to be a criminal in a police investigation.
- A **hero** is someone who has done something great for noble reasons. An **idol** is someone who is admired. **To idolise** and **to hero-worship** are the same. A **role model** is someone whose actions are used as a guide by others.
- A **guru** is a spiritual teacher, but the term is often used for someone idolised for special expertise (an **economics guru**, a **business guru**).