**ActiveHistory Head2Head Interview Challenge**

Winston Churchill: Hero or Villain?

Winston Churchill was well-known for his speeches and his quotes. In this activity we will look at a number of these quotes, and work out whether on balance they suggest that he was a hero or a villain.

**Task 1**

▪ Read through the following quotes by Winston Churchill (your teacher may wish to divide them between the class, with each student taking several each).

▪ What does each quote suggest about the sort of man Churchill is and what he believes in? Put your choice of word(s) in the appropriate column(s). Discuss with a partner / as a class.

▪ Reduce the list down to your favourite 10 quotes. Aim to have a balanced number of positive and negative quotes.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quote** | **Positive**  **HERO** | **Negative**  **VILLAIN** |
| Democracy is the worst form of government except all others that have been tried. | Realistic | Undemocratic |
| It is no use saying, ‘We are doing our best.’ You have got to do what is necessary. |  |  |
| Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts. |  |  |
| To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often. |  |  |
| I may be drunk, Miss, but in the morning I will be sober and you will still be ugly. |  |  |
| The best argument against democracy is a five-minute chat with an average voter. |  |  |
| A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. |  |  |
| Courage is needed to stand up and speak, but also to sit down and listen. |  |  |
| A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject. |  |  |
| A lie gets halfway round the world before the truth can get its pants on. |  |  |
| Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm. |  |  |
| It is better to perish than to live as slaves. |  |  |
| When the eagles are silent, the parrots begin to jabber. |  |  |
| Having enemies means you’ve stood up for something, sometime in your life. |  |  |
| If you are going through hell, keep going. |  |  |
| To jaw-jaw is always better than to war-war. |  |  |
| An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile—hoping it will eat him last. |  |  |
| Courage is the first of human qualities because it guarantees all the others. |  |  |
| Never give in…except to convictions of honour and good sense. |  |  |
| Americans always do the right thing… after they’ve exhausted the alternatives. |  |  |
| History will be kind to me for I intend to write it. |  |  |
| Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals. |  |  |
| I am always ready to learn although I do not always like being taught. |  |  |
| Kites rise highest against the wind - not with it. |  |  |
| We are all worms. But I believe that I am a glow-worm. |  |  |
| Solitary trees, if they grow at all, grow strong. |  |  |
| Difficulties mastered are opportunities won. |  |  |
| Great and good are seldom the same man. |  |  |
| I have nothing to offer (my country) but blood, toil, tears and sweat. |  |  |
| In war, resolution; in defeat, defiance; in victory, magnanimity. |  |  |
| This is no time for ease and comfort. It is time to dare and endure. |  |  |

**Task 2**

Complete these sentences to provide the basis of the another main paragraph for your essay.

Further ideas about Winston Churchill’s character and beliefs can be gained by analysing some of his most famous sayings.

• Some of these are very positive and inspirational. For example, the quote “…” suggests that Churchill was …. Because … *(repeat this format for as many quotes as you wish)*

• However, other quotes create a more mixed impression. For example, the quote “…” suggests that Churchill was ... Because … *(repeat this format for as many quotes as you wish)*

• Moreover, other quotes create a negative impression of Churchill. For example, the quote “…” suggests that Churchill was ... Because … *(repeat this format for as many quotes as you wish)*