

Sujet zéro pour le concours A BCPST

I – Translate the text into English (6 points)

La Terre se réchauffe, dangereusement. Vendredi 27 septembre, le GIEC a confirmé une évidence qui ne soulève encore de doute que dans l'esprit de ceux qui refusent de regarder la réalité en face et dénie aux scientifiques le sérieux de leur travail – le climat de la planète s'aventure lentement mais sûrement vers un réchauffement qui pourrait atteindre 4,8 °C d'ici à la fin du siècle. Ce qui pourrait conduire à une hausse du niveau des océans proche de un mètre. (...)

Mais ne soyons pas naïfs. Le changement climatique n'est plus une question de connaissances. Les scientifiques ont fait leur travail. Les politiques disposent des éléments pour exercer leurs responsabilités. Ils se sont jusqu'à présent payés de mots, alors que ce n'est pas seulement l'"avenir de la planète" qui est en jeu, mais surtout celui des générations futures, à commencer par les enfants qui naissent aujourd'hui. Des négociations internationales sont en cours. Plus personne n'y prête attention.

lemonde.fr, 28 septembre 2013.

II – Read the text and answer the question (6 points)

Flaws Humanize Our Heroes

Celebrities do more than fill gossip pages and blogs: they serve as living, breathing examples that the American Dream can come true. We inspire ourselves with their tales about rising from obscurity to fame and wealth. Their success seems to suggest that social mobility is still a possibility in America, even as unemployment rates remain high and we are experiencing a growing income gap between the top 1 per cent and the bottom 90. If celebrities can overcome obstacles to reach the pinnacle of success, it seems that there's hope for all of us. We are often very willing to forgive fallen idols provided they are contrite and offer us an apology.

Lance Armstrong embodied this ideal of rising to fame. In the age of being famous for being famous, he appeared to have toiled for his success as an elite cyclist. From battling cancer to winning one of the most gruelling competitions in all of sports, his story assured fans that he had earned his fame the old-fashioned way during an era of overnight YouTube sensations. His "brand" was hard work and health; his story brought a great deal of attention and money to the fight against cancer.

Allegations of doping call his commitment to hard work and good health into question. While we are often forgiving of celebrities who fall from grace, it is especially difficult when their behavior seems contrary to their claim to fame. Part of the pleasure of fame for us onlookers is that we feel a certain kinship with people of great renown; we have an idea about what drives them and

makes them tick. But when their deeds suggest that their identities are somehow fraudulent, we often feel cheated.

That's why we might not get so upset when Charlie Sheen has rocky relationships or substance abuse issues: none of this conflicts with his bad-boy public persona. Likewise, President Bill Clinton famously weathered sex scandals because we knew from his first campaign that this was part of his past. But if his campaign identity had been one of a faithful family man, the public's reaction would have been far less forgiving.

We are capable, and often very willing, to forgive fallen idols provided they are contrite and offer us an apology. In fact, when celebrities admit their failures it further humanizes them and makes us feel like we know them even better. So far Armstrong has not conceded, which has likely hurt his reputation. This doesn't mean that we can't or won't forgive Armstrong, provided his explanation becomes consistent with the damning evidence against him. We'll forgive celebrities many flaws, with the exception of appearing to be inauthentic

Karen Sternheimer, □ *The New York Times*, October 23, 2012.

Why does the journalist think the public can accept some personal human failures? Answer in your own words. (100 words ±10%)

III –Write an essay in 200 words ±10%. (8 points)

The role of celebrities is to keep the American Dream alive. Discuss.