**Ideas of Superhero Units**

1. What makes superheroes so American?

Developed in America

Never as popular a concept in other countries as they have been in America

"What makes Superman so darned American?"  
 <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~drbr/engle.txt>

How do superheroes reflect American values?

Redding and Steele's Explanation of the American Value System:

<http://changingminds.org/explanations/values/american_values.htm>

Not everyone sees superheroes as a positive embodiment of American values

The Jewett and Lawrence take on American superheroes:  
 <http://www.academia.edu/1073204/Book_Review_The_Myth_of_the_American_Superhero_and_Captain_America_and_the_Crusade_Against_Evil_The_Dilemma_of_Zealous_Nationalism_by_Robert_Jewett_and_John_Shelton_Lawrence>

A PowerPoint (needs work) on superheroes and ideology:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&q=cache:lJmkefqY2JAJ:homepages.wmich.edu/~macdonal/Addl.%2520Files/Globalization/super%2520heroes.ppt+why+is+superman+so+darned+american&hl=en&gl=us&pid=bl&srcid=ADGEESgMDL9TiwX1M2rQcEifKY8cCk9xe-doduQ8hqcBYRNvWRhOsnTNyZmP6HrZTDnNPbIhbU4n-FzqOU_Hn97XCNWx26B3OCpOQMg3ilh8sC2MqVw7_JoK5s4LWJREPWdSRyAoLsOU&sig=AHIEtbTIrmHmBaHSHeIcfhp1UaLFp06mZw>

2. Characteristics of superheroes

Most superheroes are urban

<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/03/08/why-so-many-superheroes-are-drawn-to-new-york/>

Some are very much a product of or reflection of their city:

Batman & Gotham City

Superman & Metropolis

Spider-Man & New York

What really makes superheroes heroic is their perseverance. Despite their power they are often underdogs and on the verge of defeat, but they don't give up

Superheroes maintain the status quo

Villains disrupt the SQ (they are active)

Superheroes restore the SQ (they are reactive)

Other takes on superhero characteristics  
 <http://theyec.org/10-traits-entrepreneurs-share-with-superheroes/>

3. Creating your own superhero This questionnaire looks helpful: <http://www.superheronation.com/2007/12/29/superhero-questionnaire/>