

LINX EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE

CHARACTER WORKS: THE CASE FOR CHARACTER

Activity 1: CHARACTER WORKS!

- 1. GROUP DISCUSSION:** Ask viewers to tell about famous people who they think are good role models. Ask them to give the character traits they think these persons have and to give examples of why they chose these people.
- 2. WRITING ACTIVITY:** Ask viewers to select at least 2 people they know who have “good” character and are good role models. Have them describe these persons in writing, including their best character traits, and how they have been a good model for them (the viewer.)
- 3. SHARING STORIES:** As time permits, have viewers share what they wrote. Encourage interaction among the group to discuss certain character traits and examples.

Activity 2: SOAR WITH ATTITUDE!

Having a good attitude or a positive attitude includes your outlook on life, how you react to something negative, and how you say what you say. Your attitude reflects your personality.

WRITING ACTIVITY: Describe yourself- your personality and character- giving special attention to your *ATTITUDE*. Write a paragraph about *YOU*. If you have a negative attitude, tell ways you might improve.

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Activity 3: "WALK THE TALK!"

Trustworthiness is integrity, "walking the talk" and doing the right thing even when no one is watching. You do what you say you'll do.

Honesty means telling the truth, being true to yourself, being "authentic" and genuine.

TEAM DISCUSSIONS:

Divide the class into teams of 5-6 members. Give them a list of honest/dishonest actions; some may be "gray areas," to discuss concerning honesty and trustworthiness. Then ask them to come up with their own list and discuss these. Have one team member record the major comments and report back to the entire class.

Here are some examples:

1. Is it O.K. to wear an item you have purchased, and then return it to the store when there is nothing wrong with it?
2. Telling your parents you're going one place when you're actually going to another... a place they wouldn't want you to go.
3. Keeping a pen that you borrowed from the instructor's desk.
4. Lying about your age to see an R-rated movie.
5. You have a job at a fast food restaurant... your friend comes in and you give him his food without having him pay.
6. Not keeping a secret that a friend has told you. When is it O.K. to tell someone else? Or is it?
7. Getting a fake ID card to buy alcohol or tobacco products, or to get into a bar or lounge.

Ask team members to discuss other examples where honesty and trustworthiness may be in question.

Activity 4: BEING RESPONSIBLE

Being responsible means taking the time to make the right choices and reflect on the possible consequences of your actions.

WRITING ACTIVITY:

List 2-3 decisions you must make in the next 4 months. Select 1 or 2 of these and write a brief summary of the choices you have for each decision. What is the responsible choice in each case? Are there other factors involved that make this a difficult choice? If so, what are they?

Activity 5: BEING THE ODD ONE OUT!

It takes courage to be the odd one out; that means to stand by what you believe or doing the right thing. Sometimes it means not going along with the others in your group.

Respect means tolerating and accepting other people's differences, treating people in a kind/considerate manner, and accepting those in authority.

TEAM DISCUSSIONS:

Divide the class into teams of 5-6 members. Have them brainstorm 1) acts of courage and 2) examples of showing or not showing respect. These can include examples in the school, community, or the nation. Then have them discuss how these actions help form a person's character.

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ANSWER KEY

Answers to these activities are subjective with no right or wrong responses. The activities are intended to generate oral and written discussion regarding the importance of having good character and what traits are considered "good" to have.

FREE RESOURCES:

The Good Character Website www.GoodCharacter.com

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