



SEVEN PROJECT

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

Character

Discussion Guide

Use these tips and the questions that follow to facilitate a discussion on character:

- Use the first 2-3 questions to warm students up and help them feel comfortable responding.
- Encourage students to open up and share personal experiences when appropriate.
- Keep the discussion focused on the topic at hand.
- Keep the discussion positive and encouraging; discourage negative comments toward any person.
- Don't be afraid of silence. Give students a few seconds to form a response. If no one responds, give your own response to the question then ask someone directly to give their opinion.

Discussion Questions

RESPECT

How would you define "respect?" (Possible answers could include: to show consideration for the feelings and rights of yourself, others and the world around you)

Bill Bradley, former U.S. Senator and professional athlete said, "Respect your fellow human being, treat them fairly, disagree with them honestly, enjoy their friendship, explore your thoughts about one another candidly, work together for a common goal and help one another achieve it."

How do you show respect to others?

RESPONSIBILITY

What does it mean to be "responsible?" (Possible answers could include: to follow through with your commitments, to be reliable and to use good judgment in making decisions)

In what ways can you show responsibility? (Possible answers could include: coming to class, doing your homework, being a good employee, being there for your friends, etc.) Being responsible is choosing to act with self-control, acting with consideration for others because it is the right thing to do regardless of whether someone is watching.

CARING

Leo Buscaglia said, "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

How would you describe a "caring" person?

HONESTY

When is it difficult to be honest? (Possible answers could include: when it's something that will get you in trouble, when it's something someone doesn't want to hear, etc.)

Honesty is...Telling someone the truth, even if it's not what they want to hear. Admitting when you have made a mistake, rather than blaming others. Keeping a secret. Being sincere.

INTEGRITY

What does it mean to have integrity? (Possible answers could include: to behave in accordance with your values, to be sincere, and to be faithful to what you believe is important)

Integrity is like a code of honor. If you have integrity, it means that you have certain values and beliefs that you live by. It also means you respect the values and beliefs of others. Integrity is a lot like honesty – it's one of the building blocks of character. (www.educationplanner.com)

DILIGENCE

What is diligence? (Diligence means sticking to a task until it is completed or mastered. Some people call it stick-to-it-ive-ness! It could involve homework, learning to play the piano, shooting three-pointers or any other task you are trying to be good at.)

COURAGE

How would you define "courage"? (the ability to face your fear. It takes courage to do lots of things, like playing a new sport, trying out for a part in the school play or giving a presentation in front of the whole class)

Unless otherwise noted, all definitions and quotes are taken from www.characterspringfield.com)