



SEVEN PROJECT

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

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

What are some of the things that you like about school?

What are some of the things that you don't like about school?

What subjects come easy to you? Which subjects are difficult for you?

How many of you think you will graduate from high school? How many think you will graduate from college?

What are some roadblocks that keep students from graduating high school?

What can you do to help remove those roadblocks so that more students realize the success of graduating high school?

How many of you know someone who has dropped out of school?

Why do you think some people choose to drop out of school?

Did their choice to drop out improve their life or make life more difficult for them?

What are some reasons to remain in school?

According to the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (www.dropoutprevention.org), following are the top 5 reasons to stay in school:

1. High school dropouts are four times as likely to be unemployed as those who have completed four or more years of college.
2. Graduating from high school will determine how well you live for the next 50 years of your life. High school graduates earn \$143 more per week than high school dropouts. College graduates earn \$336 more per week than high school graduates (\$479 more per week than high school dropouts).
3. Dropouts are more likely to apply for and receive public assistance than graduates of high school.
4. Dropouts comprise a disproportionate percentage of the nation's prison and death row inmates. 82% of prisoners in America are high school dropouts.
5. School districts all over the country provide alternative programs for students who are not successful in the usual school setting.

What do you see yourself doing in 10 years? 15 years? 20 years?

How do you think a high school diploma could help you accomplish those goals?

What advice would you give someone who is considering dropping out of school?