



Principles of Good Character

Discussion Questions

Grades K-12



1. A lot of people say that teenagers are self-absorbed and don't care about anything but themselves. Do you agree or disagree? What examples of caring have you seen in your friends?
2. What is social responsibility? What does it have to do with being a good citizen?
3. What are the benefits of being a citizen of a country? What are the civic responsibilities that go along with citizenship? What will happen to our rights and privileges if we don't meet those responsibilities?
4. Under what circumstances can civil disobedience be justified? (You might think about the Declaration of Independence and Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement).
5. What does it mean to be open-minded? What does it mean to be impartial? What do these things have to do with fairness?
6. Can you think of a situation in which it might be right to give someone a special advantage? Are there ever-good reasons to give unequal consequences for the same offense?
7. How is respect related to fairness? To caring? To the Golden Rule? To violence?
8. Some say that you don't have to respect everyone; you simply have to treat people with respect. What's the difference? Do you agree with this point of view?
9. What is the relationship between blaming and responsibility? Think about what some of your biggest problems are in school. Do you blame anyone for those problems?
10. It's been said, "There are not rights without responsibility, and there is no responsibility without rights." What does that mean? Do you agree? What is the relationship between rights and responsibilities?
11. Some adults say that your generation cannot be trusted, that you've lost good values from past generations. Do you agree, or disagree?
12. Are you more trustworthy with your friends or with your parents? Do you think your parents should trust you automatically? Why or why not?
13. What does being trustworthy have to do with the quality of your character?