

Integrity

Syllables
in•teg•ri•ty

Pronunciation
in-**teg**-ri-tee

Definition

Having high moral principles.

(Eliot's honorable values and beliefs were a sign of his **integrity**.)

Simply put: On my honor.

Related Terms

Virtue: Goodness.

Righteousness: Decency. Behaving according to a moral code.

Fundamental Question:

What is my personal code of behavior?

Students will investigate the idea that people with integrity have principles that don't vary whether at school, home, in public, or alone; and, because people with integrity must really know themselves and their values, they take time for self-reflection, so that life's changing events do not determine the course of their morals.

Objectives

Each student will:

1. Discuss behaving according to moral convictions as an aspect of integrity.
2. Identify a set of values and beliefs by which (s)he lives.
3. Write a résumé depicting ways in which his or her life was spent as a highly principled person of integrity.

Before you begin

- Gather and have available, at least one per child, random items (e.g., a shoe, an old broom, a bell, etc.) to be used as props during role play.
- Gather and have available the world, national, and /or local sections of several days worth of newspapers plus a blank book or notebook.
- Print out a copy of *Resumé, You Say?* for each student.

Suggested Sidebars:

Speaking of Integrity (Discussion Idea)

As you may have learned in math, an integer is a whole number (a number without a fraction or a decimal). The word integrity comes from the Latin root word integritas, just as integer does. Can you guess why? (Both a whole number and a person of integrity are whole, undivided, and complete.) And speaking of numbers, sometimes people without integrity are called two-faced. What do you think that expression means?

Integrity

Taking It to the Next Level

A person of integrity is one who always tries to do what's right. (S)he never lets temptation compromise his or her values. For one week, record on a list every act of integrity you see. Include the date, the act, and why it showed integrity. Share your list with your class.

Procedure

1. On the board write "Practice what you preach." Ask: "Have you ever seen or heard this expression? What does it mean?" (Behave in a consistent manner according to your moral standards and convictions.) Add: "This is one way we can show integrity. Can you think of another?" (Publicly expressing or acknowledging your convictions – even the unpopular ones, having a set of values by which we live, and other answers.)
2. Randomly distribute the props. Point to the words "Practice what you preach" on the board. Say: "Today, you're going to break into groups of three (or four) to write and act out a short play based on these words ... and using each of the props held by members of your group.")

(Steps three, four, and five may take two days to complete.)

3. Divide the class into groups. Be sure that each group has paper and pencils. Recommend the selection of a group secretary, so there is only one script per group. Discuss what to include in the script (setting, character descriptions, stage directions, sound effects, dialog, and so on).
4. Monitor the groups to help them with their theatrical interpretations of the expression on the board. When the groups are finished, collect their scripts, check them for clarity and completeness, photocopy enough of each script so that every member of that group has a copy, and allow the students to practice.
5. Get the show on the road!
6. **Follow Up 1:** Ask each student to look through the newspapers to find one article about someone showing integrity. Have the student write on the top half of a page in the blank book a synopsis of the article. On the bottom half, ask him or her to identify specific values shown by the person's actions. On the facing page, have the student make a list of the values and beliefs by which (s)he lives.
7. **Follow Up 2:** Distribute the Resumé, You Say? sheets and review the directions with your students. Be careful to explain what a resumé is, how it's generally used, and things that are traditionally included.

Name _____

Reminder: Integrity means having high moral principles.

Resumé, You Say?

Pretend it is the year 2075. As you get ready to retire, your boss asks you to prepare a resumé (outline of your own history and accomplishments). She will use the information when she writes a goodbye speech for you. What would you like to put on your resumé to show that you have been a person of integrity? Develop your fantasy resumé here:

Work Experience

Name of Employer: (example MedHealth) _____

Location: (example Mobile, Alabama) _____

Dates you did this job: (Remember this is 2075!) _____ to _____

One sentence that describes your accomplishments in this job: _____

Name of Employer: (example Save the World, Inc.) _____

Location: (example Lafayette, Indiana) _____

Dates you did this job: (Remember this is 2075!) _____ to _____

One sentence that describes your accomplishments in this job: _____

Education

Name of School/College: _____ Average Grade: _____

Highest Degree: _____ Area of Specialization: _____

Clubs and Organizations to Which You Belong (list)

Community Service and Social Action Projects (list)

Licenses or Certificates Held

Other Comments

Today's Thought: *Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth. Do the right thing because it is right. These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity.* — **W. Clement Stone, author**