

Character Education Activities: 6-8

Writing Prompts

Responsibility is being dependable in carrying out obligations and duties. Write about a responsibility that you take very seriously and how you have carried this out in your life. Do you believe you are responsible for others? Why or why not? Do you believe it is your responsibility to be a good example for others? Why or why not?

Respect includes showing high regard for other people and yourself. When you respect yourself and others, usually you will be respected. Have you ever done anything disrespectful? How did this make you feel about yourself? In what way(s) could you have handled this situation differently?

Courage is having the determination to do the right thing even when others don't and the strength to follow your conscience rather than the crowd. Describe a time in your life when it took real courage to stand up for your beliefs and why you were able to have courage to do this.

Kindness is being considerate, courteous, helpful and understanding of others. It is showing that you care about others. Write about a time that you were not kind to another and how it made you feel. How could you have handled this situation differently?

Self-Discipline is demonstrating hard work and a commitment to purpose. It is the ability to THINK before you ACT. Do you feel that your ability to be in control has increased as you have gotten older? What does it mean to you to have self-discipline? Give some examples.

Integrity includes telling the truth and not being deceitful. Write about a time that someone lied to you and you found out about it. How did it make you feel? How did it make the other person feel? Were you able to find a way to trust this person after this experience? Why or why not?

Perseverance is not giving up, no matter how hard the task. Write about some of the goals you have for yourself and how you are going to achieve them. What will you need to do? What plans do you have to make?

Good Judgment involves thinking about your actions and making wise decisions. Write about a time that you didn't use good judgment and how it made you feel. Were there consequences? Did your actions affect someone else?

- Write class rules positively. Avoid starting with the word "Don't."
- Make a character jar and place it in a prominent place in the classroom. Inside the jar, place slips of paper that **each** contain one character trait, a quotation, a character dilemma, etc. Have a student draw out one of the slips from the jar at the beginning or the end of the class period and discuss.
- Have students discuss what constitutes good sportsmanship. What qualities are exhibited? Have them find newspaper articles that show an athlete who has demonstrated good sportsmanship and one that has not. Have students write about what they can learn from both of these persons.
- Have students define the differences between heroes and celebrities. Study the positive traits of heroes through books on individuals that influenced math, literature, science, and social science fields.
- Provide opportunities to address ethical issues in all areas of the curriculum by asking the question "What is the right thing to do?"
- Discuss a "character dilemma" for a few minutes at least weekly. Examples: You lie because you don't want to face the consequences. How could you have handled this in another way? You are taking a math quiz and you glance to your right. Your teacher notices and accuses you of cheating. What can you do? Your sister steals money from your room. What do you do? You are jealous of another person. How can you handle this?
- Discuss bullying: What is it? How does it feel? What can we do to avoid it?
- Find something students can do around the school to "help out." This might be a whole class, small group, or individual activity.
- Use the "Chicken Soup" book stories as example of strong character. Have students write their own Chicken Soup book. Publish. Resource: www.TeenInk.com
- Promote civic awareness and responsibility in a number of positive ways and by example.
- Have students take ownership of their school by brainstorming ways to improve the school. Then have them develop a plan and implement. Have total student involvement.

