

STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Students will learn to take responsibility for their actions.
- Students will understand the importance of responsibility, dependability, and integrity.
- Students will understand consequences of decisions and choices.
- Students will interact with others to explore ideas and concepts, communicate meaning, and develop logical interpretations through collaborative conversations; students will also build upon the ideas of others to clearly express one's own views while respecting diverse perspectives.
- Students will write informative texts that develop the topic with facts, definitions, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.

Objectives

Students will define the word integrity and explain why it is an important life skill.

Students will identify ways in which they can show integrity in school, at home, in the workplace, and in the community.

Students will discuss the benefits of showing integrity.

Materials Needed

- “Sample Quotes about Integrity” activity sheet (“Starter”)
- Two pieces of chart paper, one labeled as “CHOICE 1” and the other as “CHOICE 2,” markers, and the “Integrity Challenge Scenarios” activity sheet (“We Do”)

INTEGRITY

Starter (20 minutes)

Ask students what they think the word integrity means, and write student responses on chart paper. Then, place students into small groups and assign each group a famous quote about integrity. (See “*Sample Quotes about Integrity*” activity sheet.) Direct students to discuss what they think the quote means.

Have each group share their quote with the class and discuss their thoughts as to the meaning of each quote. As a class, define integrity by drawing on all quotes shared with the class. Write the class-made definition on a chart. (*The definition should be something similar to “total honesty, always doing the right thing, being fair, respectful, and trustworthy.”*)

Teacher Presented Knowledge/I Do (10 minutes)

With the students’ help, generate a list of behaviors of someone who demonstrates integrity in a classroom, in a job, in a family, in sports, and in the community. Record student responses on either an anchor chart or board.

Guided Student Practice/We Do (20 minutes)

Place two pieces of chart paper (*one labeled “CHOICE 1” and one labeled “CHOICE 2”*) on opposite sides of the room. Tell students, “You are going to participate in an ‘integrity challenge.’ To play this game, you need to listen carefully to what I’m about to read to you. After each scenario that I read, you will make a decision about which choice you would make if you were in the scenario. If you think you would do the first choice, then walk to the ‘CHOICE 1’ side of the room. If you think you would do the second choice, then walk to the ‘CHOICE 2’ side of the room.” Direct students to quietly stand in the middle of the room to begin the activity.

Read the examples from “The Integrity Challenge Scenarios” activity sheet. After each is read and the students have made their choices, analyze, with the class, which choice shows the most integrity. Ask one student from each side why they made that choice. Then, ask students to think about which choice enables them to be the most honest with themselves and others, and is the most fair and responsible choice. Guide students to realize which choice shows the most integrity and why. (*An alternative way to implement this activity is to have students divide a blank sheet of paper in half and to label one side “CHOICE 1” and the other “CHOICE 2.” You can call out the scenarios and have students check which choice they would choose on their own papers. This way, students will not be influenced to make a choice based on a classmate’s decision or be embarrassed by a choice they make.*)

Student Independent Practice/You Do (20 minutes)

Have students choose a quote from the “Starter” activity that they particularly liked. Then, have students think of a person from their own lives, pop culture, or history who is the essence of a person with integrity. Direct students to independently write a paragraph explaining how their chosen person displays integrity in their life and the character traits this person possesses that reveal integrity. (*You may want to provide students with a copy of the “Sample Quotes about Integrity” activity sheet so they can see all the quotes.*)

Closure (10 minutes)

End the lesson by allowing students to share parts of their paragraphs. Finally, remind students that integrity means total honesty. It is doing the right thing when no one is looking. Integrity is the foundation of good leaders. It is composed of many other powerful life skills, including honesty, patience, responsibility, and accountability.

Student Assessment

1. How would you define integrity?
2. How can you keep your integrity?
3. Who is a person you know who displays integrity? How does he/she display integrity?
4. How can you display integrity in the classroom or at home?

LESSON EXTENSIONS

Art Extension

Have students bring in pictures of people they feel lead lives of integrity, quotes about integrity, news articles about integrity, etc. and make an “Integrity Collage.”

Drama Extension

Have students role-play situations involving a decision that tests their integrity.

ELA Extension

Have students write about a time they demonstrated integrity or a time someone they know demonstrated integrity. Have volunteers share their work with the class.

Literature Extension

Read *A Day's Work*, by Eve Bunting, to your class and direct students to listen for examples of characters showing integrity and characters who are dishonest. After the reading, ask students to share examples of integrity and dishonesty from the story. Then, as a class, discuss the consequences, both positive and negative, that each character faced. (To spark discussion, ask questions such as: Why did Francisco tell Ben that Abuelo is a gardener? What happens to Abuelo and Francisco's work? What does Francisco have to give up as the “price of lying”? Why does Ben respect Abuelo at the end? How does Abuelo show integrity?) Ask students what they think was the moral or lesson of the story.

Social Studies Extension

Students can choose a famous historical figure who lived a life of integrity and research their life. They can write a biography about their chosen person and/or create a presentation that explains the person's historical significance and how the person lived a life of integrity.

Technology Extension

Download the “Interactive Marble Jar” for a smart board. Each time a student reports another student displaying integrity, add a marble to the jar. When the jar is full, give the class a reward.

THE INTEGRITY CHALLENGE

Read these scenarios to your class. Students are to choose what they would do for each scenario and go to the corresponding side of the room—1 or 2.

1. Your friend has come over, and you are both on your mom's computer. Your friend wants you to go to a website that you know your mom does not want you to visit. However, your mom has run over to your neighbor's home for a few minutes, so you and your friend are alone. Would you...

Choice 1: ...visit the website? Your mom is not home now, and she may never know you visited it.

Choice 2: ...tell your friend that you should go to another website or do something else? You may get in trouble if you visit the website.

2. You did not find the time to study for your vocabulary test, and your grandmother told you that you must get an "A" on the test to go to the mall with her this weekend. During the test, you notice that you can easily see the answers of the student who is sitting next to you. Would you...

Choice 1: ...cheat off the student's test? You know she studied and probably has the correct answers.

Choice 2: ...choose to do your own work? You may not get an "A," but you didn't cheat.

3. You saw your best friend steal some money out of the backpack of another student in your class. Would you...

Choice 1: ...report what you saw to your teacher? You know your friend may be mad, but the student in your class now doesn't have money for lunch.

Choice 2: ...not say anything? You weren't the one who stole the money.

SAMPLE QUOTES ABOUT INTEGRITY

“Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody’s going to know whether you did it or not.”

“Integrity is choosing your thoughts and actions based on values rather than personal gain.”

“Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.”

“The time is always right to do what is right.”

“Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.”

“Wisdom is knowing the right path to take...integrity is taking it.”

“It is not what we profess in public, but where we walk and what we practice in secret that gives us integrity.”

“Being honest may not get you a lot of friends, but it’ll always get you the right ones.”