

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Advisor's Guide to personal growth and leadership development

Lesson Number: **RNH.2.3**

Ethics and Values

Purpose:

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce students to the subject of ethics and values and how they relate to a person's goals and decisions.

Quick Reference:

Time Required:

50 minutes

Objectives:

After completing this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Define ethics and values and discuss their importance.
2. Identify ethical traits.
3. Identify their core values.

Materials:

- ✓ RNH.2.3.AS.A – one per facilitator
- ✓ RNH.2.3.AS.B – one per student

Directions:

Leaders must have a strong sense of ethics and values to make appropriate decisions. Covey describes values as principles, and defines them as guidelines for human conduct that endure through time and have permanent value. Examples of principles include fairness, integrity, honesty, and excellence. He states that putting principles first is the key to becoming a person of character. Values or principles are like a compass that provides direction to keep one on the right track. Warren Bennis coined the statement, "Managers do things right. Leaders do the right thing."

1. Tell students that ethics and values can be very controversial topics. Ethics and values are very important and will guide every decision that an individual will make.
2. Even though values may differ among people, most in our society agree that there are some universal values that we should live by. Ask students for examples of ethical and unethical behaviors. Here are a few to get started:
 - a. Ethical: returning a wallet to its owner intact
 - b. Unethical: cheating on a test
3. Display RNH.2.3.AS.A and discuss the definition of ethics and values with students. Have them underline some of the major points in each definition.
4. Tell students that as they grow and accept more responsibilities they will be making more decisions. It will be important for them to think through their values to make the best decisions for themselves.





5. Indicate that leaders must have a strong sense of ethics and values to make the appropriate decisions. Tell them values are like a compass that provides direction to keep you on the right track.
6. Review the following ethical traits with students, defining each point and discussing the importance of each one:
 - a. Honesty
 - b. Respect
 - c. Loyalty
 - d. Fairness
 - e. Justice
 - f. Trustworthiness
 - g. Sincerity
 - h. Credibility
 - i. Virtue
7. Hold a class discussion on ethics and how they influence behavior. You may find it helpful to refer to some people who have recently been in the news for their ethical or unethical choices.
 - a. Discuss the consequences of ethical and unethical behavior.
8. **Values Clarification:** Tell students that today they are going to write down their values. Indicate that there are three criteria to keep in mind when clarifying their values. They are:
 - a. A value must be freely chosen; no one can choose what a value is for you.
 - b. A value must be acted up on; it shows in everything that you do.
 - c. A value must be publicly affirmed; you are willing to tell others what is really important to you.
9. Hand out RNH.2.3.AS.B to each student.
10. Explain to them that the four questions they are going to answer will help them articulate five of their values. The answers to the questions will lead them to their values. Explain to students that a good test to determine if a value really matters to them is how it translates into goals and then into their time.
 - a. Time is perhaps the most important commodity of all. You can distinguish the things that are really of value to you by the amount of time you are willing to exchange to attain them.
11. Tell students to begin answering questions and if they need assistance to ask and you will assist them.



Connection Questions:

1. Of the nine ethical traits discussed in class today which three do you need to work on growing in the most and why?
2. What kind of impact do your ethics and values have on other people?
3. Who is someone that you believe has high ethics and standards and why?

LifeKnowledge Connections:

Precept(s) Addressed:

Action

A8. Evaluate and reflect on actions taken and make appropriate modifications.

Relationships

B1. Practice human relations skills including compassion, empathy, unselfishness, trustworthiness, reliability and listening.

Vision

C4. Adapt to opportunities and obstacles.

Character

D1. Live with integrity.

D2. Accurately assess my values.

D3. Accept responsibility for personal actions.

LK Lesson Suggestion:



HS.34 – The Consequences of Ethics

HS.35 – Professional Ethics and Personal Character



Ethics and Values

Ethics is defined as the principles behind behavior or conduct that is morally correct; the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation; a set of moral principles or values; the principles of conduct governing an individual or a group; a guiding philosophy.

Values are sets of beliefs and standards that influence your life and your decisions. Each of us has a “values map” that provides a guide to “the way things should be” based on our beliefs and our standards.



Name: _____

Date: _____

What Are My Values?

What do I really want out of life?

What activities have value to me?

What do I really enjoy doing and sharing?

What was I doing and how was I acting the last time I felt a complete sense of excitement and joy?

Write five values that you esteem highly.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.