



Middle School

National FFA Organization

Lesson MS.7

BEING HONEST WITH MYSELF AND OTHERS

Unit.

Stage One of Development-ME

Problem Area.

What Foundation Skills Do I Need for Leadership?

Precepts.

D2 Accurately assess my values.

National Standards.

NL-ENG.K12.2 - Understanding the Human Experience - Students read a wide range of literature from many periods in many genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions of human experience.



Student Learning Objectives. As a result of this lesson, the student will ...

- 1 Define the characteristics of trust.
- 2 List three ways to be honest with self and others.



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Time. Instruction time for this lesson: 50 minutes.



Resources

National FFA Essential Learnings, 2003.



Tools, Equipment, and Supplies

- ✓ Writing surface
- ✓ Child's puzzle—one per group of five students
- ✓ Overhead projector
- ✓ Students' notebooks
- ✓ Pen/pencil
- ✓ Colored pencils—one box of eight will accommodate four students
- ✓ MS.7.TM.A
- ✓ MS.7.TM.B
- ✓ MS.7.TM.C
- ✓ MS.7.Assess—one per student



Interest Approach

Each group will receive a child's puzzle. Select a puzzle that has a small number of pieces so it can be easily completed in a few minutes. Before class, select two pieces from each puzzle to give to the team leader in each group. Give the team leader the puzzles as well.

Divide students into groups of five by numbering them off as they enter the classroom.



Today we are going to start today off with a fun challenge. We need to concentrate carefully. Each of you will be a member of a team that will be completing a challenge. I need one volunteer from each group to be the team leader. Teammates, I need to meet with the team leaders in the hall for a few moments to give instructions for your team. While we are doing that, choose a location in the classroom in which to work.

Lead the team leaders into the hall. Explain the following to them:



Your team will be putting together a puzzle. As the team leader, you are going to lead them astray. You are going to keep two of the puzzle pieces from them.

Give the team leaders the puzzle pieces and the puzzles.



Keep these out of sight from your teammates. No matter what they say to you, do not tell them you have the puzzle pieces. What questions do you have?

Return to the classroom with the team leaders.





What questions do you have? When I say "go," begin completing the puzzles. You will have five minutes to complete this activity. "Go."

Monitor and time the activity for five minutes.



Okay, teams, if you were able to complete your puzzle, raise your hands. Why were there no hands in the air? What difficulties did you have with this challenge?

Answers include: we were not able to find all of the pieces; no one knew where they were; we weren't given all of the materials.



Team leaders, what did you do to help your team?

Answers include: not much; tried to lead them to the conclusion; helped them look for puzzle pieces.



Teams, did you trust your team leaders? If your answer is yes, raise your right hand. If your answer is no, raise your left hand. Why or why not?

I have a confession to make. Your team leaders were not being completely honest with you. Before we began this activity, I gave your team leaders two pieces of the puzzle. They were instructed not to tell you they had those pieces. How does it make you feel when your team leaders and your teacher are dishonest with you?

Answers include: angry; disappointed; confused



Think of specific instances when people have not been totally honest with you. How did it make you feel? Have you ever been dishonest with others? We all have been dishonest with someone at one time or another. Today we are going to develop a foundation for the importance of honesty and trust to others and ourselves.

SUMMARY OF CONTENT AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Objective 1. Define the characteristics of trust.



Trust is something that is earned. When you meet a new friend you don't necessarily trust them until you have had time to get to know them. Trust and honesty go hand in hand. If I trust you I should be honest with you. If I am honest with you I probably trust you. I am going to read five different scenarios that I want you to answer honestly in your notes. When I say honesty, I will begin to read scenario one and then you need to write what you would do and so on until we have completed all five scenarios. Ready? Honesty.

MS.7.TM.A





What would I do?

Think about the following questions. What would you do, even if no one were watching? Please answer honestly.

1. You find a \$20 bill at the local supermarket.
2. You catch a classmate cheating on a test.
3. You witness someone stealing at the gas station.
4. Someone asks you to lie for him or her.
5. You and your best friend are in really big trouble... if you tell your parents the truth.

Put overhead on.



Take about three minutes to answer these questions. Follow the directions on the overhead.

Time the activity for three minutes.



Wow, what a day if we had every one of those scenarios take place in one day. Please choose two colored pencils from the boxes being passed around the room. One color is for positive responses, and the other color is for negative responses. Please wait until everyone has his or her colored pencils. You will now choose someone at your table to work with. I would like for you to take one minute and share your answers with each other for each question. What questions do you have for me? Okay, "share."

Time one minute. Process the activity by asking the following questions:



Was it difficult to answer these questions honestly? Why or why not?
Why is honesty so important to a person's character?

Possible answers include: because it allows people to trust you; you are able to keep promises.



Now, put on your thinking caps and select which answers are positive and which answers are negative.



Please copy the following information into your notebook.

Use a Crayon Moment.



When people are honest with you, it affects your relationship with them. You can put your trust in them. Honesty is a positive character trait. Honesty and trust begin with yourself. Are you truly honest and truthful with yourself? Odds are that if you can be honest with yourself and your actions then you are honest and truthful with friends and associates. Honesty and trust go hand in hand. Let us now take the characteristics of trust and put them in our notes.

MS.7.TM.B

I. The characteristics of trust

A. Honesty

1. Telling the truth in every situation

B. Keeping my word

1. Keeping secrets and promises

C. Performing positive acts

1. Showing kindness to others
2. Being involved in activities that will better others and myself



We discussed telling the truth in every situation earlier in our group activity. We each experienced how not telling the truth can be hurtful and stop progress on projects. Now, let's discover ways to be honest with others and ourselves.



Objective 2. List three ways to be honest with self and others.



Stand up and close your eyes. When I say, "go," carefully spin around three times while pointing your left index finger straight ahead of you. When I say, "stop," you will stop. Any questions? "Go."

Wait three seconds.



Stop.

The person you are pointing to is now your partner. Find at least one other pair to work with, so there are at least four people in your group. Choose a place to work. Within each group, the person with the birthday closest to today, raise your hand. You are the scribe, or note taker, for your group. When I say "brainstorm," your groups will brainstorm for two minutes on ways to be honest. Imagine your brain is a tornado. Ideas are spinning around in your head, and your thoughts will fly from your brain onto the paper. What questions can I answer for you? "Brainstorm."

Monitor the groups for two minutes.



Share some ideas with the entire room by raising your hand. I'll capture these thoughts on the writing surface.

Allow three groups to share their ideas. Possible answers include: doing what is right; making good decisions; standing up for your beliefs.



Excellent job! Now, let's brainstorm ways we can be honest with others. When I say, "start," you will have two minutes to complete your thoughts. "Start."

Monitor the activity for two minutes.



Let's hear from a group that has not been able to share with us yet. I'll write your ideas on the writing surface while the other groups listen to the answers.

Allow three groups to share. Possible answers include: telling the truth; keeping commitments and promises; being fair.



You have shared some wonderful ideas. See how many of these ideas are the same as the ideas I am about to share with you. Please transfer these ideas into your notebook.

MS.7.TM.C

I. How to be honest with yourself and others

A. Tell the truth



- B. Keep promises
- C. Show fairness
- D. Stand up for your beliefs
- E. Live a life of honesty



Review/Summary

Use a Karaoke Moment to review what students have learned in this lesson. Students' songs should be like section of a chorus not the whole song.



Today we have learned the importance of truth and what it is and also how to be honest with others and ourselves. Now let us put all of this together. Each group from the last activity make up a song about the points that we covered today. You will have 8-10 minutes to complete this project and give to the class.



Application

►Extended Classroom Activity:

Students will demonstrate the concepts in today's lesson throughout class in relation to their peers.

►FFA Activity:

Students will keep three commitments they make to attend and participate in FFA activities.

►SAE Activity:

Students will develop skills in being honest in the workplace, such as admitting mistakes, keeping commitments, and keeping important information confidential.



Evaluation

Students will complete MS.7.Assess.

Answers to Assessment:

1. Any of the following descriptors, as well as what you deem acceptable to describe trust:

- Honesty
- Telling the truth in every situation
- Keeping my word
- Keeping secrets and promises
- Performing positive acts
- Showing kindness to others
- Being involved in activities that will better others and myself



2. Tell the truth

Keep promises

Show fairness

Stand up for your beliefs

Live a life of honesty

MS.7.Assess

Name:

Being Honest with Myself and Others



BEING HONEST WITH MYSELF AND OTHERS

Directions: Complete the following answers to the best of your ability.

1. Describe trust.

2. List three ways to be honest with yourself and others.



WHAT WOULD I DO.

Think about the following questions. What would you do, even if no one was watching. Please answer honestly.

◆ **You find a \$20 bill at the local supermarket.**

◆ **You catch a classmate cheating on a test.**

◆ **You witness someone stealing at the gas station.**

◆ **Someone asks you to lie for him or her.**

◆ **You and your best friend are in really big trouble ... if you tell your parents the truth.**



THE CHARACTERISTICS OF TRUST

◆ **Honesty**

➔ **Telling the truth in every situation**

◆ **Keeping my word**

➔ **Keeping secrets and promises**

◆ **Performing positive acts**

➔ **Showing kindness to others**

➔ **Being involved in activities that will better
others and myself**



HOW TO BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF AND OTHERS

- ◆ **Tell the truth**
- ◆ **Keep promises**
- ◆ **Show fairness**
- ◆ **Stand up for your beliefs**
- ◆ **Live a life of honesty**

