

Character Education Resource Center

News You Can Use

July 2019

Using Character Quotes in the Classroom

Quotations are often a time-effective instructional strategy to engage your students to “think about thinking” (meta-cognition). Quotes lend themselves to critical thinking, application to lessons in life, a conversation starter for home and classrooms, and a character/behavior guide.

In addition, quotes meet Common Core State Standards for ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R2, CCRA.R8, CCRA.R9 ([Mensa Education & Research Foundation](#)) To You Their Teacher: It’s up to YOU to answer four questions about this lesson: (1) Do you want to use it? (2) If so, do you need to modify it? (3) How much time will you give it? (4) How will it be extended?

Objectives: After this lesson students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast quotations
- Find information about the author of each quote
- Determine the meaning and implication of each quote
- Write/draw how the quote may apply to what they do and say
- Discuss the meaning of the quotes with their classmates, friends, family.

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams

- Eleanor Roosevelt

You see things; and you say, ‘Why?’ But I dream things that never were; and I say, ‘Why not?’

- George Bernard Shaw

Never give up on what your really want to do. The person with big dreams is more powerful than the one with all the facts.

- Albert Einstein

So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.

- Christopher Reeve

Give your dreams all you’ve got, and you’ll be amazed at the energy that comes out of you.

- William James

Collaboration

A 21st Century Competitive Advantage

The role of leaders is to activate and maintain collaboration. Collaboration entails finding the right mix of people (skills, personalities, knowledge, workstyles, and chemistry). Ensuring they share commitment to the collaboration task at hand, and providing them with an environment, tools, knowledge, training, process and facilitation to ensure they work together effectively.

Three essential elements of collaboration success:

- **Enthusiasm** – a keen interest in the people and project and commitment to success. Enthusiasm signals care and commitment.
- **Open mindedness** – a willingness to listen, explore, and be intensely curious. Open-mindedness is critical for everyone to contribute their ideas and perceptions..
- **Trust** – belief in one another’s timely follow through and mutual safety. In the absence of trust, people are defended and guarded. It is intellectually impossible to be both defended and connected.

The connected educator is a model for all educators as we move forward. A connected educator is as much a learner as a teacher. A connected educator is digitally literate, adapting as needed to inevitable changes. A connected educator is relevant in a world where rapid change is already a constant for our students.

Tom Whitby, [The Relevant Educator: How Connectedness Empowers Learning](#), and [The Educator's Guide To Creating Connections](#).

Skills to Raise Emotional Intelligence

Skill 1: The ability to quickly reduce stress.

Skill 2: The ability to recognize and manage your emotions.

Skill 3: The ability to connect with others using nonverbal communication.

Skill 4: The ability to use humor and play to deal with challenges.

Skill 5: The ability to resolve conflicts positively and with confidence.

Jeanne Segal, PhD., & Melinda Smith, M.A.,
September 2013

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/mental-health/emotional-intelligence-eq.htm>

4 Must Haves for Positive Teacher-Teen Relationships

By establishing the four pillars of consistency, respect, high expectations, and kindness in the classroom, a teacher can build a rapport with teen students that promotes engagement and success.

Consistency - Freedom without consistent rules and routines is a recipe for disaster.

Respect - A respected teacher will find it easier to engage, influence, and inspire students.

High Expectations - [Edutopia](#) provides some stats and simple, daily things to do in the classroom to promote high expectations.

Kindness - My students knew I had high expectations for their behavior and the quality of their work. I did not let casual carelessness creep into our classroom community.

[The Schools Teens Need](#) , May 9, 2019 |Volume 14/Issue 26

Mary Ann Ware is in her 16th year of teaching high school English and Jodi Rath is in her 20th year as an educator.

The Power of Proactivity

Here are four questions about the character strength of proactivity for you and the young people in your lives to reflect on - how many are true today?

- (1) I am always looking for better ways to do things.
- (2) I love to challenge the status quo?
- (3) I enjoy being a champion for ideas, even against opposition.
- (4) I like to be the one to take initiative.

Some people don't need anyone to tell them to take initiative. But most of us need some encouragement.

- Angela Duckworth

Character Strengths

Overwhelming scientific evidence now shows that character strengths like self-control, curiosity, and gratitude are critically important to social and emotional well-being, physical health and achievement.

Strengths of heart - Interpersonal or “giving” strengths

Help you relate in positive ways to other people. Examples: gratitude, kindness, and empathy.

Strengths of mind - Intellectual” or “thinking” strengths

Help you wonder, reason, and create. Examples” curiosity, creativity, and humor

Strengths of will - Intrapersonal or “doing” strengths

Help you achieve your goals. Examples: grit and self control.

<https://characterlab.org/about/>

What We Heard From Educators: US Department of Education

“If we speak kindly to plants and it helps them grow, imagine what speaking kindly to children will do.”

- Principal, California

“Model questioning and how to respectfully agree and disagree with people.”

- Teacher, Ohio

“Each week, invite one staff member to have lunch with you in their space or in your office.

Learn more about who they are as an individual.”

- Teacher, California

“Be a champion and make a difference.”

- Principal, Maryland

“Young children are super inquisitive, our response to that can encourage or stifle the curiosity.”

- Teacher, Arizona



We are a resource center which means that we are here to meet your needs and interests in the character education of children and youth. Please reach out to us if we can assist you in any way.

Our Motto: If we don't have it, we can get it or create it.

What do you think of this month's NUCU? We'd love to hear your **thoughts, questions** and **feedback**: character@sandiego.edu

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