

Character Education Resource Center

News You Can Use

September 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.

Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character.

- Albert Einstein

Everything can be taken from a man but one thing; the last of the human freedoms – to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances.

- Victor Frankel

The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes.

- William James

Negative attitudes drain, positive attitudes fuel!

- Marvin Marshall

Your character is determined by your attitude and how you spend your time, and so is happiness.

- Travis Bradberry

Getting Ready for a New School Year

Principal Tracey Smith writes that her first week of this new school year is creating relationships, setting routines and procedures, and building a classroom community. She shares four ways she and her staff set a positive tone for the new school year:

1. Pick a mindset for the year. This year's mindset is "Live to Give" so before school even starts, we're doing a huge kick-off inviting all our families to the school.
2. Share a welcome back video. To build collaboration, excitement, and ownership, she sends an email to teachers saying, "Whoever wants to be in the video, come and join us at this time."
3. Play together, then work together. "At our kick-off breakfast this year, we'll do fun, team-building games."
4. Behold the cart of awesomeness: "We got a sign made that says, "The Cart of Awesomeness" and I fill it with silly stuff, like fuzzy rocks and hand soaps. I wheel the Cart of Awesomeness around the classrooms and hand out treats to each teacher. We also have a Cooler of Awesomeness that we fill with Cokes in glass bottles and wheel around on hot days."

How to Ignite Your Teachers for the New School Year
Tracey Smith, July 31, 2019, www.smartbrief.com

7 Tips for Better Classroom Management

Start off the new school year on a positive note with these 7 TIPS:

- 1: *Love your students*
- 2: *Assume the best in your students*
- 3: *Praise what and when you can*
- 4: *Do sweat the small stuff*
- 5: *Identify yourself*
- 6: *Forge a class identity*
- 7: *Have a plan*

Tyler Hester, Edutopia, Sept. 11, 2013

Morning Meetings in Middle and High School

Can we bring the advantages of an elementary school strategy for building a classroom community to the higher grades? (YES) It's a wonderful system for building community and trust and for setting the stage for a day full of learning. The time spent building community will come back to us exponentially in fewer behavior issues and better student engagement.

Knowledge: Use names. Make sure you know your students' names and that they know one another's names.

Communication: Take the time to articulate what you mean by a quality decision (or better yet, arrive at a description as a class).

Collaboration: When the class is at a collaborative stage, your job becomes maintenance.

Laura Thomas, May 23, 2018, Edutopia

When Character Takes Center Stage, Teens Rise Up

Students need to feel a sense of belonging, need opportunities to reflect on their work and their own character journey, need teachers who will give them opportunities to have conversations about the issues of the day and take action when necessary. School must put character at the core of the curriculum.

<http://www.ascd.org/ascd-express/vol14/num26/when-character-is-center-stage-teens-rise-up.aspx>

Why Attitude is More Important Than IQ

What follows are some strategies that will fine-tune your mindset and help you make certain it's growth oriented as possible.

- *Don't stay helpless*
- *Be passionate*
- *Take action*
- *Then go the extra mile (or two)*
- *Expect results*
- *Be flexible*
- *Don't complain when things don't go your way*
- *Bring it all together*

- [Dr. Travis Bradberry, April 9, 2019](#)

Fall 2019 Essay Contest "Who is Your Hero and Why?"

In collaboration with the Character Education Resource Center at the University of San Diego, the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation (FLHF) and the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum are pleased and proud to announce their annual essay contest for all public, private, and home school students in grades 6 through 8 and grades 9 through 12 in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

The essay contest opens on **Monday, September 9, 2019**. All entries must be received by **Monday, November 11, 2019 by 6:00 PM (pst), Veteran's Day**

Questions/information:

education@flyingleathernecks.org or character@sandiego.edu



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

Enjoying this newsletter? **Forward to a friend!** [They can sign up here.](#)

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Medal of Honor Character Development Program

ELEMENTARY
EDUCATOR TRAINING



MEDAL OF HONOR Character Development Program

EVENT DETAILS

Friday | October 4th | 2019

University of San Diego
Joan B. Kroc Institute for
Peace and Justice
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110

REGISTRATION
8:00AM - 8:30AM

WORKSHOP
8:30AM - 3:00PM

VISIT

www.themedalofhonor.com
and click 'Events' to Register

This training will provide you with all the tools you need to implement the Medal of Honor Character Development Program in your elementary school classroom. Our flexible, cross-curricular resource is based on values embodied in the Medal of Honor. The lessons focus on how students can live lives of courage, commitment, sacrifice, integrity, citizenship and patriotism and influence change in their own communities. Attendees will examine lessons and discuss how to incorporate them into existing curriculum. **There is no cost to attend.** This training will focus on our Elementary Curriculum and is open to K-6 teachers from all subject areas along with counselors, coaches, and administrators are invited to attend.

Teachers Attending This Event Will:

- Receive 0.5 graduate level extension credit in semester hours through the University of San Diego
- Learn Best Practices for their classrooms
- Receive all resources at no cost
- Enjoy a complimentary lunch
- Receive reimbursement for substitute costs (with submission of an invoice)

To learn more about this program, visit
www.themedalofhonor.com
or contact:

Erin Billmayer
Manager of Education and Meetings
Congressional Medal of Honor Society

ebillmayer@themedalofhonor.com
843-277-5823