

Exploring Leadership

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS: ELEMENTS OF TEACHING

Entire courses in college are devoted to the Elements of Teaching, so there is no way a ten-minute lesson is going to give participants any level of depth into the finer details, but since we spend most of our childhood in various learning situations, most of us have a pretty good idea of what sort of teacher we like.

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- Show 1-minute video of teachers in well-known movies.
- Think of your favorite teacher (in real life, not the video). What made them your favorite?

In this activity, participants will share the teacher traits they find most inspiring, and discuss tips on how to become the most effective teacher they can be.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and discuss positive learning experiences.
- Evaluate past teacher performances.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Internet/Video Capability to play video clip: "Teachers In Movies" found on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6j1Mp_psnc
- Flip chart paper
- Markers

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

Say: "Take a couple minutes to think about some of your favorite teachers. Think up some descriptive adjectives you could use to describe them. Don't focus on the subject matter, just the teacher and/or their style of teaching." Then have each participant share one quality of a teacher that made a class enjoyable.

- Look for similarities in the participants' reasons, and put those with like reasons on other teams.
- Each team will sketch and label the Ideal Teacher on a piece of flip-chart paper. (Obviously the sketch does not have to be great art). The labels should be the positive qualities discussed.
- If time permits, each team can also sketch and label the Worst Teacher on a separate page.
- Share/Display the finished sketches.

FACILITATOR TIP:

- Remind participants during the activity that there are lots of people we learn from besides classroom teachers, and many of them may have positive qualities: coaches, scout leaders, mentors, older siblings, etc.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Ask the below open ended questions to your group to engage in a discussion about what happened during the activity.

- Why do different people like different teachers?
- What are some Ideal Teacher qualities that all the drawings seem to share?
- What are some generally poor qualities that less effective teachers seem to share?
- Could you be a teacher? Why or why not?

APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

Teaching is the process of developing the knowledge, skills, and character of others. Popular, well-liked teachers are sometimes easier to learn from, and they are often excellent teachers. Ask the below open ended question to your group to engage in a discussion about teachers and different teaching styles.

- What kind of teacher best meets your learning style?
- When you have to teach something to a group, which Ideal Teacher qualities will you try to exhibit?
- What will you absolutely NOT do?
- How could you develop new Ideal Teacher qualities?
- How will you reach students that don't do well with your teaching style?



CONCLUSION:

It's been said that "good teachers plant trees in the shade of which they know they will never sit." They also remember what it was like to be the student, and they try to make learning meaningful and fun. Some day, it will be your turn....

Utah State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution and is committed to a learning and working environment free from discrimination. For USU's non-discrimination notice, see equity.usu.edu/non-discrimination.

REFERENCES

- <https://simplicable.com/new/teaching>
- <http://www.mdirss.org/ten-elements>
- https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_4h_curriculum
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6j1Mp_psnc