

Exploring Leadership

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP: RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility. Ownership. Accountability. No excuses. They are used interchangeably, and every parent, teacher, boss, and leader knows how important they are to success in relationships and life. This activity will give participants a chance to practice accepting Responsibility as well as illustrating some examples about how not to react to problems.

CONVERSATION STARTER:

- "With great power comes great responsibility." What does this quote mean?

We take ownership of our work, always trying to be better, thinking differently and challenging convention. But when a problem arises, what do we often do instead of taking Responsibility? We might refuse to admit there is a problem or blame others for the problem. Maybe we don't consider our own role in the problem, or maybe we just don't know how to react, so we do nothing.

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

Responsibility Role Play: Instructions

FACILITATOR TIP:

- Pair up and choose a Responsibility Scenario (Appendix) for you and your partner.
- Develop a 30-second mini-play that illustrates Responsibility in the scenario.
- Then develop a counterpoint play that illustrates the wrong way to handle it.
- Perform as many of the plays as possible in the time remaining.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Define and role play Responsible behavior.
- Identify common non-examples of Responsibility.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Copies of the Responsibility Scenarios (Appendix).



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How did you determine who would play the responsible character?
- What conclusions can you draw about Responsibility after watching the examples and non-examples?
- What are the benefits of being a responsible person? How do you benefit from the responsibility of others?

APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

- What responsibilities do you have to live up to? How well do you do so?
- Think about somebody you know who is very responsible. How does that person demonstrate responsibility? Does that make you respect him/her more?
- What does the Golden Rule have to do with responsibility?



CONCLUSION:

One of the foremost qualities in a successful employee or leader is a willingness to accept Responsibility for one's actions and behavior, good or bad. Taking Responsibility means making decisions, taking action, setting high standards, learning from our mistakes and always doing what we say.

It's been said that "There are no rights without responsibility, and there is no responsibility without rights." The more Responsibility you accept in all areas of life, the more freedom you will have and the more you will be respected.

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REFERENCES

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QRqIGznHvU>
- <https://proudtobepimary.com/teaching-responsibility-in-the-classroom>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZITJouEeY8>
- <https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/common-challenges/following-social-rules/social-situations-to-role-play-with-your-high-schooler>



APPENDIX:

Responsibility Role Play

When a problem occurs, a person who understands Responsibility is able to do the following:

- State their own role in problem event/incident
- Identify appropriate behavior
- Identify what to do next time
- Accept the consequences

A person who does NOT understand Responsibility will do these things instead:

- Refuse to admit there is a problem.
- Blame others for the problem
- Refuse to consider their own role in the problem
- Resist corrective action or consequence
- Escalate disruptive or hurtful behavior

Take 1: The WRONG way. Instead of accepting Responsibility and taking appropriate action, the person will make the situation worse. Take 2: The RIGHT way. The person will exhibit RESPONSIBLE behavior.

Scenarios:

- A police officer pulls over a person for speeding.
- A school principal catches a high schooler sneaking into school 30 minutes late.
- A parent is upset with a teenager for not completing a chore when they said they would.
- Two 16-year olds “borrowed” their dad’s car and sideswiped a garbage can, ruining the paint job.
- One wants to pretend nothing happened. The other isn’t sure.
- An English teacher wrote an e-mail to the principal that was critical of the school librarian. The principal showed it to the librarian, who was devastated.
- A city pool lifeguard (who is a teenager) discovers that the chlorine level in the pool is dangerously high and clears the pool of swimmers. While getting out, one of the lap swimmers (an older person) made a snide comment and blamed the lifeguard for ruining their workout.
- The night before the ACT test, a high-schooler gets invited to a once-in-a-lifetime concert. A friend who was also invited is considering turning down the invitation because the ACT is a pretty important test.
- An employee who didn’t complete their part of a project on time hears a co-worker getting chewed out for missing the deadline.
- A teenager agrees to hang out with a “needy” friend, but moments later another friend calls and says, “Let’s do something.”

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