



Trustworthiness

October 9, 2017

Students Will Be Able To

- 1. Assess their own trustworthiness*
 - 2. Explain the importance of trustworthiness in their relationships with others*
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Materials

Copies of the Trustworthiness Opinionnaire for each student, Discussion Prompts, Reflection Prompts

Introduction

Explain to students that the goal of the activities will be to help them identify how trustworthy they are in various aspects of their lives, and to help them understand the importance of trustworthiness in their relationships with others – whether that means their best friend trusting them to use their iPhone without sending inappropriate texts, their teacher trusting them to work independently, or even their parents trusting them to take the car on a date.

Activity 1 – Trustworthiness Opinionnaire

Give students time to complete the trustworthiness opinionnaire on their own. This asks them to assess their own trustworthiness, so it won't be shared with anyone else.

Activity 2 – Pair Discussion

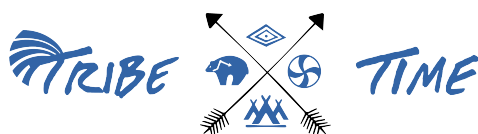
Divide the class into pairs and have students answer as many of the question prompts as they can. Students should be encouraged to spend more time on questions where there is disagreement or higher interest in the discussion.

Activity 3 – Scenario Debate

Divide the class into small groups. Have each group choose one of topics provided and pick sides. Each side should spend a few minutes preparing arguments to support their side. Each side then takes a turn debating their side. If time permits, students should then counter the arguments presented by the opposing side.

Activity 4 – Trust Reflection

Have students choose one of the writing prompts provided, and spend the remaining time answering the questions on the back of the Trustworthiness Opinionnaire. If desired, students can share their responses with a partner or the class.





Trustworthiness Opinionnaire

Activity 1

Are You a Trustworthy Person?

Nobody knows you like you do, although others will end up deciding if they trust you based on how you act. Do what you think of yourself and what others think of you line up? Take this opinionnaire to find out.

True False I keep my promises; I am a person of my word.

True False I am reliable; I follow through on my commitments.

True False I am honest about my schoolwork.

True False I am honest with my parents.

True False I never say things to my friends that aren't true.

True False I keep secrets; I never betray a confidence or a trust.

True False I am always loyal, even when the person I'm being loyal to is in the wrong.

True False I have integrity; I don't cave in to temptation.

Well, Are You?

Look over your answers and decide. No one is going to see this but you, so try to be honest.

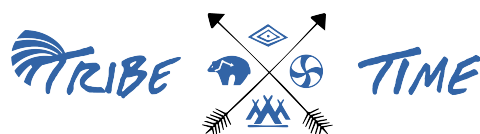
Yep. I'm as trustworthy as they come.

Sure. I'm usually someone you can trust.

Nope. I'm in it for me, and being trusted hasn't been a priority.

Is That Where You Want to Be?

How do you feel about that? Is what you put where you want to be? If so, what comes next will be reinforcement for you. If you aren't somewhere you want to be when it comes to being trusted, that's okay. The activities that come next will help you start to make some changes.



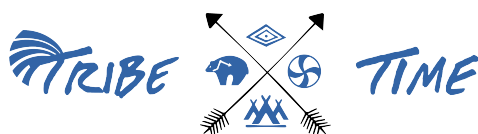


Pair Discussion Prompts

Activity 2

Divide the class into pairs and have students answer as many of the question prompts as they can. Students should be encouraged to spend more time on questions where there is disagreement or higher interest in the discussion.

1. How do you know when you can trust someone?
2. Is it a good idea to risk losing your parents' trust for temporary pleasure?
3. How important is trust in your relationships with friends and family? How would these relationships be affected if you found out someone was lying to you?
4. Once trust has been broken, what can you do to get it back? Have you ever lost someone's trust? Has someone lost your trust? Explain.
5. If your friends were here right now, would they say you were trustworthy? What would your parents say? Are you more trustworthy with your friends or with your parents? Do you think your parents should trust you automatically? Why or why not?
6. You've talked about different interpretations of trustworthiness. What were they? Do you agree with them? Can you add any? What does trustworthiness mean to you?
7. If you want someone to trust you, who has most of the responsibility— you or the other person? Why?
8. Your trustworthiness may be questioned but your choices will never lie. What does that mean? Do you agree?
9. As a general policy, should we start off trusting people and only stop trusting if they prove that they're not worthy? Or should we be cautious and not trust them until they prove themselves worthy? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each position?
10. Trust is the basis for every relationship. Do you think that's true? Explain.
11. Your willingness to trust another person is important if you want that person to trust you. Do you agree? Explain.
12. What does being trustworthy have to do with the quality of your character?
13. What are the benefits of being a trustworthy person? How do you benefit from the trustworthiness of others?



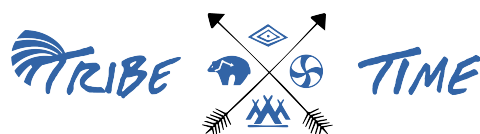


Scenario Debate Topics

Activity 3

Choose a topic below that interests you and choose a side. Come up with reasons that support your position and then argue your case to your partner. Once they argue their side, respond to their arguments.

1. Are politicians inherently untrustworthy? Use real-world examples to support your position.
2. Someone stole your iPhone. They got caught and gave it back. Can they ever be trusted again?
3. Is it ever okay to mislead someone or lose their trust? Use examples from movies or TV to back up your side.
4. Is it worth losing someone's trust if you don't agree with what they are doing? Use examples of situations with a friend to support your case.
5. Is it necessary to trust your teacher?
6. Some adults say that your generation cannot be trusted - that you've lost the values from past generations. Do you agree, or disagree?





Reflecting on Trust

Activity 4

Choose one of the topics below and write a brief reflection on where you stand on the issue. Try to use what you've done so far today in what you say.

1. Are you a trustworthy person? In what ways are you trustworthy? In what ways are you, perhaps, not so trustworthy? What could you do to improve?
2. Describe what society might be like if nobody were trustworthy; if suspicion, dishonesty, and betrayal were the norm; if nobody could be counted on to keep commitments.
3. Write about someone you trust. Why do you trust that person? How important is that trust to you? How do you reciprocate?
6. Write about a time you lost somebody's trust or somebody lost your trust. Was this trust ever regained? How? W

