

SASO MIDDLE SCHOOL CHARACTER EDUCATION LESSON

TOPIC: VALUES

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Note to Teacher: This lesson encompasses values—i.e., “core beliefs that guide and motivate attitudes and actions” (www.ethics.org). It offers the teacher guidelines to follow after students have viewed the SASO VIDEO entitled *Character. Own it.* which features Jessica Harlee (Values).

Discussion questions, scenarios, and suggestions for writing and speaking assignments have been designed to develop student critical thinking, reflection, interaction, and creativity. They are interchangeable and should be determined by the teacher.

With regard to discussion questions and scenarios, teachers may pose questions to students individually or in small groups. With regard to the latter, a spokesperson for each group should be selected to summarize his or her group’s discussion to the rest of the class.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you define values?
2. What are examples of values?
3. Where do values come from?
4. Are values important to you?
5. Are you taught about values in school? How?
6. Are you taught about values at home? How?
7. How can you tell if someone has good values?
8. Discuss someone in the media (e.g., celebrity) who is known for his/her good values?
9. Discuss someone in the media (e.g., celebrity) is known from his/her lack of values?
10. If your friend’s values differ from yours, is your friend a bad person?
11. Should schools reinforce actions based on good values? How?
12. Should schools regulate actions based on poor values? How?
13. Do you think you can be a positive example to others because of your values? How?
14. What are some things you can do in your school to promote good values? How?
15. Who is your role model for good values?

Scenarios: What would you do?

1. You are planning to see a movie with a group of friends. Once you get to the movie theatre, you find out that they want to buy tickets to the movie you thought you were going to see but sneak into an R-rated movie instead. What would you do?
2. When the teacher left the room, many of your classmates started making fun of one of the students in your class. What would you do?
3. You really want a new shirt from your favorite store, but you don't have the money to buy it. Your friends tell you how to steal the shirt without getting caught. What would you do?
4. You forgot to do your homework and your friend offers his for you to copy. What would you do?

Writing/Speaking Assignments: Students either may write a paper or give an oral presentation about the topic (length and guidelines to be determined by the teacher).

1. Define values in your own words and give examples to explain your definition.
2. Describe someone you know who has good values.
3. Discuss whether or not you think your generation has similar values to your parents' and/or grandparents' generation.
4. Interview your family members and/or friends, and ask them how they define values and which values are important to them.
5. Discuss your values and how you came to have those values.
6. Discuss why different people may have different sets of values.
7. Discuss whether or not it is easy to make decisions based on your values.
8. Discuss how you think a stranger would describe your values after observing you for a day.
9. Discuss whether or not a person's values influence his/her actions?
10. Discuss what values you want to be known for.
11. Discuss a well-known person who is known for his/her values.
12. Discuss a well-known person who is known for his/her lack of values.
13. Discuss how values reflect the environment in which you grew up.
14. Write a nonfiction or fiction story about values.
15. Write a poem or song about values.
16. Select one of the quotes related to values and learn what it means. Or, find a quotation about

values and learning what it means. Identify the author of the quote and describe who that individual is (e.g., Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States).

Quotations about Values:

1. Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth. (Henry David Thoreau)
2. If we are to go forward, we must go back and rediscover those precious values - that all reality hinges on moral foundations and that all reality has spiritual control. (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
3. Your beliefs become your thoughts, your thoughts become your words, your words become your actions, your actions become your habits, your habits become your values, your values become your destiny. (Mahatma Gandhi)
4. For everything I do, I think about a 6-year-old girl and her mom that I saw at my concert last night. I think about what those two individuals would think if I were at a club last night. I never want to be arrested, and I never want to get a DUI. Those are my moral values. (Taylor Swift)
5. Don't waste your love on somebody who doesn't value it. (William Shakespeare)
6. Authentic values are those by which a life can be lived, which can form a people that produces great deeds and thoughts. (Allan Bloom)
7. It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are. (Roy Disney)
8. Nothing makes it easier to resist temptation than a proper bringing-up, a sound set of values - and witnesses. (Franklin P. Jones)
9. The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values. (William S. Burroughs)
10. Anything that changes your values changes your behavior. (George A. Sheehan)
11. Never compromise your values. (Steve Maraboli)
12. Find people who share your values, and you'll conquer the world together. (John Ratzemberger)
13. We can tell our values by looking at our checkbook stubs. (Gloria Steinem)
14. If we are to go forward, we must go back and rediscover those precious values - that all reality hinges on moral foundations and that all reality has spiritual control. (Marshall McLuhan)
15. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values. (Dalai Lama)
16. Maturity is achieved when a person postpones immediate pleasures for long-term values. (Joshua L. Leibman)

17. Getting money is not all a man's business: to cultivate kindness is a valuable part of the business of life. (Samuel Johnson)
18. The more choices you have, the more your values matter. (Michael Schrage)
19. Living in a way that reflects one's values is not just about what you do, it is also about how you do things. (Deborah Day)
20. Always do what is right. It will gratify half of mankind and astound the other. (Mark Twain)
21. About morals, I know only that what is moral is what you feel good after and what is immoral is what you feel bad after. (Ernest Hemingway)
22. When you are led by values, it doesn't cost your business, it helps your business. (Jerry Greenfield)
23. A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both. (Dwight David Eisenhower)
24. It is easier to exemplify values than teach them. (Theodore Hesburgh)
25. I stopped living according to my core values. I knew what I was doing was wrong but thought only about myself and thought I could get away with whatever I wanted to. (Tiger Woods)
26. Values are not just words, values are what we live by. They're about the causes that we champion and the people we fight for. (John Kerry)
27. John and I were lucky because our mother was a strong woman with high expectations and a strong sense of values. She encouraged us to pursue things we were interested in and not think about what other people wanted us to do. (Caroline Kennedy)
28. As a man, I've been representative of the values I hold dear. And the values I hold dear are carryovers from the lives of my parents. (Sidney Poitier)
29. We get real results only in proportion to the real values we give. (James Cash Penney)
30. How I measure riches is by the friends I have and the loved ones I have and the people that I care about in my life, and that's where my values are and that's where my riches are. (Ann Romney)
31. To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society. (Theodore Roosevelt)
32. Values provide perspective in the best of times and the worst. (Charles Garfield)
33. Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value. (Albert Einstein)