

# SASO MIDDLE SCHOOL CHARACTER EDUCATION LESSON

## TOPIC: SPORTSMANSHIP

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**Note to Teacher:** This lesson encompasses one of the sportsmanship—i.e., participating and competing for the love of the game instead of self. It offers the teacher guidelines to follow after students have viewed the SASO VIDEO entitled *Character. Own it.* Jonthan Kimble addresses the topic of sportsmanship.

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 sportsmanship?
2. What is a good sport? What is a bad sport?
3. Discuss a time when you were a good or bad sport, or both.
4. Who is a role model for sportsmanship for you? Why?
5. Is it important to be a good sport? Why?
6. How do you teach someone to be a good sport?
7. Discuss what your school does to teach sportsmanship.
8. If you are on a team, what does your coach or advisor do to teach you about sportsmanship?
9. What are examples of appropriate consequences for not being a bad sport?
10. Is sportsmanship important? Why or why not?

**Scenarios: What would you do?**

1. Your football team loses a closely contested state championship game. You question the last call made by the referee which allowed the opposing team to score the points needed to win the game. What would you do?
2. At the beginning of the basketball game, your team goes to the middle of the court to shake hands with the opposing team. Many of the opposing players make negative comments about your school while they are shaking hands with you and your teammates. What would you do?
3. Prior to the softball game with your school's biggest rival, you read negative comments in the hometown newspaper that players on the opposing team have made about you. The newspaper sports reporter calls you and asks you to comment on the story. What would you do?
4. You are running for class president. The other candidate is running a very negative campaign and is saying false negative things about you. After the ballots are counted, he wins by five votes. 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. Discuss the advantages of being a good sport.
2. Are there disadvantages of being a good sport? If so, please discuss them.
3. Discuss a time when you weren't a good sport. What did you do to change your behavior?
4. Discuss a time when a celebrity wasn't a good sport. What happened?
5. Discuss scenarios in which good sportsmanship is very important to success.
6. Write a code of conduct for good sportsmanship for your team or your school.
7. List and discuss at least three qualities related to good sportsmanship.
8. Write a fiction or nonfiction story about sportsmanship.
9. Write a poem or song about sportsmanship.
10. Select one of the quotes related to sportsmanship and think about what it means. Or, find a quotation about sportsmanship that is meaningful to you. Identify the author of the quote and describe who that individual is (e.g., Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States).

## **Quotations about Good Sportsmanship:**

1. I never thought about losing, but now that it's happened, the only thing is to do it right.  
(Muhammed Ali)
2. Victory is in the quality of competition and not the final score. (Mike Marshall)
3. Nobody will think you're somebody if you don't think so yourself. (African American proverb)
4. We didn't underestimate them. They were a lot better than we thought. (Sir Bobby Robson)
5. Sportsmanship for me is when a guy walks off the court and you really can't tell whether he won or lost, when he carries himself with pride either way. (Jim Courier)
6. I think sportsmanship is knowing that it is a game, that we are only as good as our opponents, and that whether you win or lose, to always give 100 percent. (Sue Wicks)
7. One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than 50 others preaching it. (Knut Rockne)
8. If it is a cliché to say athletics build character as well as muscle, then I subscribe to the cliché.  
(Gerald Ford)
9. A winner never whines. (Paul Brown)
10. It is your response to winning and losing that makes you a winner or a loser. (Harry Sheehy)
11. Win or lose, do it fairly. (Knut Rockne)
12. It is not so important who starts the game but who finishes it. (John Wooden)
13. If you win through bad sportsmanship, that's no real victory. (Babe Didrikson Zaharias)
14. I always felt that my greatest asset was not my physical ability, it was my mental ability.  
(Bruce Jenner)
15. When the Great Scorer comes to mark against your name, He writes not that you won or lost, but how you played the Game. (Grantland Rice)
16. Victory is remembered for at most two decades; an act of good sportsmanship is remembered for a lifetime. (Simon Nguyen)
17. You win some, you lose some. But you always try again. (Unknown)
18. Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Until your good is better and your better is best. (Tim Duncan)
19. The best inspiration is not to outdo others, but to outdo ourselves. (Anonymous)

20. A good coach will make his players see what they can be rather than what they are. (Ari Parseghian)
21. The only way to prove you're a good sport is to lose. (Ernie Banks)
22. Always imitate the behavior of the winner when you lose. (George Meredith)
23. It's not up to anyone else to make me give my best. (Hakeem Olajuwon)
24. Never give up, never give in, and when the upper hand is ours, may we have the ability to handle the win with the dignity that we absorbed the loss. (Doug Williams)
25. You are never really playing an opponent. You are playing yourself, your own highest standards, and when you reach your limits, that is real joy. (Arthur Ashe)