

SASO MIDDLE SCHOOL CHARACTER EDUCATION LESSON

TOPIC: ACADEMICS

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Note to Teacher: This lesson encompasses one of the Six Pillars of Character: Responsibility. Specifically, it focuses on pursuing excellence—i.e., do your best, be prepared, be diligent, work hard. It offers the teacher guidelines to follow after students have viewed the SASO DVD of Ashley Banks (*Volume I. Academics*) and/or the SASO VIDEO (*Character. Own it.*) which features Liz Gulick (Academics).

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 to small groups. With regard to the latter, a spokesperson for each group should be selected to summarize discussion to the rest of the class.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important for the middle school student to begin preparing for college?
2. What is the difference between taking a college preparatory course and a general elective course?
3. What is a cumulative GPA?
4. What is the ACT? What is the SAT? Why are they important?
5. What are examples of college preparatory classes?
6. If you already know what you want to study in college, how can you begin preparing for that major now?
7. Why are community service and extracurricular activities important?
8. What is a good method to use when learning about different colleges?
9. What is a good method to use when learning about different college majors?
10. What is a major?

11. What is a minor?
12. What does it mean if you have an associate's degree? A bachelor's degree? A master's degree? A doctorate degree? A professional degree?
13. How can you select a major?
14. What is the responsibility of a college academic advisor?
15. What is the difference between a college and a university?
16. What are the benefits of attending college?
17. How does college help you grow as a person?
18. What is diversity and how it is related to college?
19. How do college classes differ from middle school and high school classes?
20. What is a life-long learner?

Scenarios: What would you do?

1. You would like to attend college; however, you think that your family cannot afford it. What would you do?
2. You would like to attend college; however, you have no idea what major you would like to study. What would you do?
3. Your family has the money to send you to college; however, you have no idea which university you would like to attend. What would you do?
4. A year after you attend college, you decide to change your major. What are the consequences of making that change?

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. What does a college education mean to you?
2. Discuss the differences between a college and a university.
3. Interview your family members and/or friends and ask them to tell you how they feel about college education.
4. Discuss a field of study in which you would like to major. Explain why.

5. Discuss the type of job you would like to have after college.
6. What is time management and why is it important?
7. What are examples of good study skills? Do you have them? Why or why not?
8. If you are not interested in attending college, what goals do you have when you finish high school? What type of job do you want?
9. Describe someone you know who has graduated from college and is a role model to you.
10. Describe the things that excite you when you think about attending college.
11. One type of college class follows the traditional lecture format in which the professor lectures and the students take notes. What are other formats for college classes?
12. In what types of college extracurricular activities do you want to be involved?
13. What is the most attractive aspect about attending college? What is the least attractive aspect?
14. What is the most attractive aspect about completing college?
15. How does education affect self-confidence?
16. How has technology influenced education?
17. What do these terms mean and are they important: cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude?
18. Discuss why a college education is important in our society today.
19. Write a nonfiction or fiction story about education.
20. Write a poem or song about education.
21. Select one of the quotes related to education and explain what it means. Or, find a quotation about courage and explain 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 Education

1. Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe. (Abraham Lincoln)
2. The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet. (Aristotle)
3. It takes a village to raise a child. (African proverb)

4. You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives. (Clay P. Bedford)
5. He was so learned that he could name a horse in nine languages; so ignorant that he bought a cow to ride on. (Benjamin Franklin)
6. You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else. (Albert Einstein)
7. The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn. (Alvin Toffler)
8. If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail. (Abraham Maslow)
9. The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you. (B.B. King)
10. Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands. (Anne Frank)
11. Education is the transmission of civilization. (Ariel and Will Durant)
12. Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance. (Will Durant)
13. Poor is the pupil who does not surpass his master. (Leonardo da Vinci)
14. Prejudices, it is well known, are most difficult to eradicate from the heart whose soil has never been loosened or fertilized by education; they grow there, firm as weeds among rocks. (Charlotte Bronte)
15. Success is simple. Do what's right, the right way, at the right time. (Arnold H. Glasgow)
16. Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence. (Robert Frost)
17. It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he already knows. (Epictetus)
18. Education: a debt due from present to future generations. (George Peabody)
19. Education is one of the few things a person is willing to pay for and not get. (William Lowe Bryan)
20. Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it. (George Santayana)
21. What I hear, I forget. What I see, I remember. What I do, I understand. (Confucius)
22. The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn. (Gloria Steinem)

23. Education is not filling a bucket but lighting a fire. (William B. Yeats)
24. There is no greater crime than to stand between a man and his development; to take any law or institution and put it around him like a collar, and fasten it there, so that as he grows and enlarges, he presses against it till he suffocates and dies. (Henry Ward Beecher)
25. Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them. (James Baldwin)
26. Education, therefore, is a process of living and not a preparation for future living. (John Dewey)
27. Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave. (Lord Brougham)
28. The great aim of education is not knowledge, but action. (Herbert Spencer)
29. Study as if you were going to live forever; live as if you were going to die tomorrow. (Maria Mitchell)
30. The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live. (Mortimer Adler)
31. It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it. (Aristotle)
32. Too often we give our children answers to remember rather than problems to solve. (Roger Lewin)
33. Learning is not a spectator sport. (Anonymous)
34. As the twig is bent the tree inclines. (Virgil)
35. The things taught in colleges and schools are not an education, but the means of education. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)
36. The highest result of education is tolerance. (Helen Keller)
37. Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous. (Confucius)