



Character: Practice Activity



Goal:

This activity will allow youth to think about the character traits they possess now, and what they hope to possess 10 years from now. Students will be given time to put together a “character cape” for themselves as they are now, and the leader they hope to become. Students may then present their character to the rest of the group.

Materials:

- Resources for their “cape”
 - This may include computers, arts and craft supplies, or the template below

Instructions:

1. Describe to students what character is and provide examples, including the following:
 - a. Truthful, patient, honest, greedy, pessimistic, etc.
2. Tell them to think about the traits that they possess now – what things are “typical” for them? How would their parents describe them? Their friends?
3. Tell them that they must make a “character cape” – any visual representation of what they feel their current character traits are
4. Give them time to think and list some traits
5. Tell students that they must also make a “character cape” for the traits they hope to possess as a leader 10 years from now
6. Give them the materials you wish to provide, and give them time to complete them
7. Inform them that they may present their creations in front of the class

Things to point out:

- Discuss what it means to have character – “good” vs. “bad” traits, etc.
- Understanding your own character can be difficult
 - Is your idea of your own character the same as others’ ideas about you?
 - Does your idea of your character traits truly match your day-to-day behavior?
- What was the most difficult trait to write down, or not write down, if you were honest?
- How was your future character cape different? How was it the same?
- Discuss what you can do to achieve your future cape