

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Community Building

Acting on Shared Values

This is a teacher's guide for the student handout "Acting on Shared values". The left side of this page is a copy of the student handout with answers as well as space for additions to add. The right side lists objectives, grades, directions, and curriculum connections.



We may agree on the importance of certain values. The hard part comes in figuring out what each person when they talk about those values. This can be confusing. The best way to overcome this obstacle is through communication. What does respect mean to you? What will it look like in your classroom or during your service project? Finding out the answers to these questions will help everyone work better together.

The shared values are: *Use the Shared Values Survey to decide on the top four values for the class. List these values in the space provided.*

What do these values mean to me? *Help students to articulate why those values are important to them. How those values make them feel.*

What will these values look like in action? *Whether you are doing a service project, an assignment, or creating guidelines for classroom behavior, work with students to help them answer questions like "what will respect look like?" Answers may focus on listening to each other, not interrupting, helping one another, not making fun of a suggestion by someone.*

Additions: Follow-up activities:

Have students create a class constitution using the shared values and the actions assigned to them. Keep the constitution in plain sight for students to look at and refer to throughout the year. Don't let these activities, the vocabulary they created, and the discussions they launched be left in the dark and never used again.

To connect the *Shared Values Survey* and *Acting on Shared Values* to the real world, have students bring home the *Parent/Guardian Survey*. This activity asks parents and other adults what values they think are important. This also allows parents the opportunity to contribute to class ideas and discussions.

Have students search the news and find examples of people who demonstrate the values decided on by the class. Discuss what those people did to put their values into action.

Objectives:

Students will articulate what shared values mean to them and look like in action with others.

Grade level:

4-12

Directions:

Begin by explaining to students that although it is important to not only agree on core values, but also to discuss what those values mean and what they look like.

Hand out activity and have students complete using the top 4 values decided on through the *Shared Values Survey*.

Individually, have each student complete the activity.

Allow discussion time after completion. Allow enough time for students to get several viewpoints. Refer to the list of actions frequently.

Subject/Material

Connections:

This activity is wonderful for any classroom or club to help begin the year, day, or unit.