



The Ideal Year

Together we can work to make this year something special

Take 10 minutes to think about the following questions and record your answers on this sheet. Also circle the character traits or values that helped make your answer positive. You may circle the ones listed, or add your own. As you answer these questions recall the things that made you feel important, helpful, happy, responsible, and caring. Also think about the experiences that made you feel unhappy, guilty, mad, or selfish. In order to create a great future, it is helpful to remember our past. Use all your past experiences and future dreams to help you answer the questions below. Remember to include what each answer would look like, act like, sound like, feel like.

Describe the ideal classroom/club/team _____

Character traits/values that make this ideal: *respectful* *organized* *friendly*
others _____

Describe the ideal students/club members/teammates _____

Character traits/values that make this ideal: *trustworthy* *respectful* *cooperative*
Others _____

What things can you do to help make your ideal thoughts part of your real future? _____



The Ideal Year (facilitator copy)

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Objective: Students will begin to articulate what the values they think are important *look* like in real-life action. Student will take a role in the creation of their own positive community.

Materials Needed: Each student should receive one copy of *The Ideal Year*

Grade Level: This activity is appropriate for any grade level 2-12. This activity works best in the beginning of the school year/program year as you work to introduce students to one another and set the tone for your class or team. However, it is appropriate to insert *The Ideal Year* at any point during you class or program year when.

Activity:

1. Begin *The Ideal Year* with a discussion about past experiences both in and out of school. Ask students what people or experiences really stand out in their minds and why.
2. Hand out *The Ideal Year*, explain the directions for the worksheet, and remind students that a discussion will follow the assignment and that their answers should be constructive. Tell students that the goal of this assignment is to take their ideas and, by working together, create an environment that everyone enjoys. Remind them that through this assignment (and others) they will help to create their own ideal year.
3. Give students between 5-10 minutes to complete the activity. After students have completed *The Ideal Year*, ask for volunteers to present their answers. Discuss the experiences that helped them create their answers.
4. As students share their *Ideal Year* assignment, write down the character traits and values they have chosen or have a student volunteer write the values mentioned. You can go further by asking what these traits or values look like in *action* (what does a trustworthy club member do?).
5. Follow this assignment with the *Shared Values Survey* as you work toward building a positive classroom community. You may want to wrap up the *Ideal Year* and the *Shared Values Survey* with the creation of a class constitution.

Addressing Learning Styles: To address the needs of the different learners in your class, you may wish add on the following:

- Have student draw their ideal answers (not just what they look like, but actions)
- Have students act out their answers to *The Ideal Year*. This is really a student-created role-play.
- Have students present their *Ideal Year* conclusions and class constitution to younger grades and help younger students to create their own.