

Ideas to Implement the Comprehensive Model

Ethical Reflection and Decision Making

Make a good choice! How many times does a student hear this exhortation? The process of making a good choice may be influenced by many factors such as a person's values, family training, community norms, emotions and/or self-interest. With all the factors that influence choices, students find it difficult to explain how they prioritize options to make a good decision. SEE's professional development workshops apply the *Golden Compass* process to help teachers learn a strategy to teach students how to use pro-social character traits and The Golden Rule to guide their choices.

While *The Golden Compass* process can be applied K-12, the cases in the workbook are written for application in **middle and high schools**. The activities and skills taught through application of The Golden Compass provide a compass needle that points students to decisions in support of positive character.

SEE has been supporting the character-based decision making process with The Golden Compass since 2006. Using the workbook, teachers and students are encouraged to complete the introductory exercises together and create a skill base for use with ethical dilemmas students face in life. Following the basic skill development, *The Golden Compass* presents 56 dilemmas to help students master the process. The dilemmas are circumstances that are relevant to the life of middle school and high-school students while at school, home and in the community.

There is often more than one good option to solve life's dilemmas. *The Golden Compass* provides activities to help students practice reasoning skills while validating the importance of positive character to guide decisions. The analysis process of *The Golden Compass* also supports the practice of reading analysis identified in the Common Core objectives. The same analysis and evaluation strategies taught with *The Golden Compass* can be applied to student analysis of characters in literature, history or cases in science and health classes.

