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.