



Values Auction

Lead:

Student leaders often need to clarify what values are most important.

Objective:

Students will be able to evaluate what values are important by collaborating and discussing with peers.

Materials:

Twenty-five flash cards with the following words written on them:

Adaptability, Compassion, Courage, Creativity, Empathy, Equality, Fairness, Freedom, Generosity, Gratitude, Honesty, Humility, Integrity, Justice, Love, Loyalty, Optimism, Patience, Perseverance, Respect, Responsibility, Security, Self-Respect, Trust, Wisdom.

Play money for four or five teams (we recommend playing with five \$500 and ten \$1,000 in paper money—a total of \$12,500).

Steps:

- Ask students what they know about an auction. Explain that at an auction people bid against each other for items they really want.
- Ask: What values are important to you? Explain that in this activity, students will be bidding for the values they want in their lives.
- Post the value cards on the board: *Adaptability, Compassion, Courage, Creativity, Empathy, Equality, Fairness, Freedom, Generosity, Gratitude, Honesty, Humility, Integrity, Justice, Love, Loyalty, Optimism, Patience, Perseverance, Respect, Responsibility, Security, Self-Respect, Trust, and Wisdom.*
- Students should work with teams to bid for the values they want and think are most important.
- Conduct the auction. Allow students to bid and hand cards to highest bidder.
- Students are able to buy more than one value but may not overspend.

Personal Reflection:

Describe a situation when you had to clarify your values. How do you resolve conflicts between what is valuable and what is satisfying?

Group Discussion:

- Which values were most highly contested? Why?
- Which were not? Why?
- What does society value most? Provide a rationale.
- What do we value at school most?
- As a leader, why is it important to clarify your values?

Extended Learning:

Option 1: Students should work in small groups to reach a decision about the following fictitious dilemma. Using Edmodo or an online forum, the group should explain their decision and how they reached their decision. Students should comment and discuss.

The ship is sinking and the seas are rough. All but one lifeboat has been destroyed. The lifeboat holds a maximum of six people. There are ten people who want to board the lifeboat. The four individuals who do not board the boat will certainly die. Argue for who should stay.

- Woman who thinks she is six-weeks pregnant
- Lifeguard
- Two young adults who recently married
- Senior citizen who has fifteen grandchildren
- Elementary school teacher
- Thirteen-year-old twins
- Veteran nurse
- Captain of the ship

Option 2: Students should comment and discuss school scenarios:

Social Media Student Suspension: A student is getting a ten-day suspension for creating a fake Twitter account that posts mean remarks about teachers and students. The principal doesn't seem to like this student and he usually gets in trouble. You know that it was actually someone else who did it, someone who never gets in trouble, and that the principal seems to like. What do you do?

Cheater Cross Country: You run cross-country for your school. During a race, one of your teammates whispers to you that she knows a short cut and you won't get caught. Around the next turn in the trail, she takes a hard left and no one sees her take the short cut. Your team wins the meet. What do you do?

Gossip Girls and Guys: Your friends are talking badly about someone. They are saying things that you know are not true but are really scandalous. They ask your opinion. How do you handle this situation?

Detention: During class you threw something across the room. The teacher blames someone else and gives him a detention. If you get another detention, you will get suspended and won't be able to play in your sport this weekend. What do you do?

What Is Fair?: The principal asks you to help organize an assembly for students. You can choose five students to help you with this project. Many students want to help. How do you choose students in a way that is fair?

The iPad: You take your tests on an iPad. You can easily access your notes during the test, but the teacher doesn't know. A lot of students are doing this. What do you do and why?

The Change in the Cafeteria: After paying for lunch, you realize the cafeteria worker gave you too much change. What should you consider in making your decision? What will happen to the cafeteria worker?

Notes
