

Rewarding Hard Work

Isaiah



Grade Level: Middle School



DU Theme: Setting and reaching goals



SEL Competency: Self-management

Essential Question: What are some long-term goals that are worth working hard for?

Facilitator may wish to use reflection questions with students individually or in groups. Below is a possible adaptation for a group activity.

ACTIVITY

Ask students the following questions:

Isaiah talks a lot about working hard, but he also talks about his football team. How successful can he be without the rest of the team?

Do you think Isaiah is good at encouraging others on the team to work hard and do well? Why do you say as you do?

Based on your knowledge of students, split students into groups of 2, 3 or 4. Hand each group a teamwork scenario.

Have each group read each scenario and develop a plan to accomplish whatever tasks are called for in the scenario. Planning how to accomplish the tasks is only part of the purpose of the activity, try to ask questions and help students understand that perseverance is required to reach the goals of the character in each scenario.

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Once groups have developed their plans have each group present to the larger group. Ask probing questions focusing on how it feels to accomplish something that is difficult.

[2-3 minutes]

CONCLUSION

Debriefing questions.

Do you think Isaiah had an easy time reaching his goals? Why or why not?

How do you think someone stays motivated to work toward a long-term goal?

Why do you think people dedicate time and energy toward reaching goals?

[2-3 minutes]

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TEAMWORK SCENARIOS

Jillian is part of a project-based learning team for her history class at school. A university far away is conducting several archaeological digs in the summer and they are using local people to help them find potential dig sites. Her team is one of several that is using original documents to figure out where Native Americans and Europeans lived in areas nearby to choose the best possible locations. Jillian is really excited about the work and is wondering if this is a possible career choice for her. But the other three members of her team are only doing enough work to get by. She has two problems to consider. First, how can she motivate the rest of her team to work harder? Second, what should she do over the next several months and years to decide if she wants a future career in this type of work?

Gerry has started playing disc golf along with several friends. The group has formed a team and participates in a local league. They are improving, but the public course nearby is usually crowded, limiting how often they can practice. Another problem is that they have to rely on parents for transportation. Gerry thinks it would be a good idea to set up a disc golf course in a large park that is within walking distance of the members of the team, but one of the other team members thinks that idea is "stupid". What can Gerry do to motivate the rest of the team? What steps would they need to take to make Gerry's idea a reality?

Terrell's mother is part of an advisory committee for the local town council. He has become concerned because several of the proposals his mother's committee has presented to the elected city council has been voted down with little consideration. His mother along with most of the other committee members are becoming discouraged because they put in a lot of time researching and developing ideas only to have them voted down. Terrell is thinking that something should be done. His older sister tells him, you just have to get some new members elected to the council. Terrell replies, "but I am not old enough to vote". His sister says, "so what". What could Terrell do? How would he accomplish it?

Raphael and his mother spent several weeks during the summer visiting extended family members. While staying with an aunt and uncle, he spent time hanging out with one of his older cousins, Jessika. He learned that Jessika has been on her high school's debate team since she was a freshman and the team is very well respected, so much so that there is potential for everyone on her debate team to earn partial college scholarships. Raphael thinks this would be a great idea for his school. What should he do? How would he do it?