

HONESTY

Teacher Resource

WHAT IS HONESTY?

Telling the truth.

BENCHMARKS

- ✓ **HE.912.R.1.1** Demonstrate effective and respectful communication skills and strategies. Clarification: Differing opinions.
- ✓ **HE.912.R.1.2** Demonstrate empathy in a variety of contexts and situations. Clarification: Identifying others' feelings, perspectives, circumstances, experiences and active listening.

PURPOSE

- ▶ These interactive activities will help your students explore the complex layers of **honesty** and the importance of demonstrating effective and respectful communication in building and sustaining relationships. Share the suggested introduction with your students, choose one or more of the activities below, and conclude with the suggested wrap-up. Feel free to modify or revisit activities throughout the week to continue reinforcing **honesty**.



Suggested Introduction:

"Today, we are going to explore ways we can demonstrate **honesty** through effective and respectful communication. Even when we disagree with others, **honesty** combined with respect enables us to communicate openly while valuing each other's viewpoints. This fosters trust and understanding, even in challenging conversations. When you are **honest**, you are fostering deeper connections because the people around you will know they can rely on you for authenticity."



Activities to Build Honesty:

1 "Honesty Dilemma Cards" Game

Divide students into small groups and provide each group with a set of "**Honesty** Dilemma Cards." Each card presents a scenario where **honesty** is challenged. Allow groups to discuss each scenario, identify possible actions and list the potential outcomes (positive and negative) for each choice. Facilitate a discussion about their reasoning, and emphasize the value behind their choices and how they would feel if they were on the other side of their decision. This activity acknowledges differing opinions and explores others' feelings and perspectives.

Suggested scenarios for the "Honesty** Dilemma Cards" include:**

- You forgot to study for an important test and your friend offers to let you look at his or her answers during the exam. The teacher isn't paying attention and no one would know. Do you cheat or accept a lower grade?
- You find a wallet with cash in it at school. No one is around and there is no obvious way to identify the owner. Do you take the money, leave the wallet or turn it in?
- You're applying for college and a friend suggests exaggerating your achievements on your application to improve your chances. No one will check and it could help you get in. Do you do it?

HONESTY

Teacher Resource

GRADES
9–12



Activities to Build Honesty (Continued):

2 Honesty Case Study

Provide students with case studies of real-life events where **honesty**, empathy and communication were critical (e.g., whistleblower cases, someone speaking up in a difficult situation). Have students read and analyze the case study in groups of three, and then identify the role of **honesty** and empathy in the situation. Each group will present their findings to the class, highlighting how the individual's decisions and actions shaped his or her relationships and outcomes. Be sure to encourage students to highlight where **honesty** played an important role in the situation.

Example case studies of real-life events include:

- The Tylenol Crisis (1982)
- “Tear Down This Wall” Speech by President Ronald Reagan (1987)
- NASA’s Apollo 13 Crisis (1970)
- Gettysburg Address (1863)

3 Honesty and Trust in Action Challenge

Assign each student one **honesty** or trust challenge to complete outside of class over the span of a week. This challenge should enable students to demonstrate empathy in various contexts and situations, emphasizing active listening and understanding others’ feelings, perspectives, circumstances and experiences. After completing the task, students will write a reflection on how they demonstrated **honesty**, trust and empathy, how it affected them, and what they learned about the other person’s perspective. Have a class discussion where students share their experiences and explore how empathy and trust helped them better understand others’ feelings and viewpoints. Connect this activity to how **honesty** and empathy work to contribute to communication and build trust in relationships.

Suggested honesty challenges include:

- Admit a recent mistake to someone you trust. Explain why you’re choosing to be **honest** now.
- Give **honest** feedback with empathy. Offer kind, constructive feedback to a peer or friend about a recent project or interaction.

Suggested trust challenges include:

- Ask someone to share something meaningful with you. Show him or her you can be trusted by actively listening without interrupting, judging or sharing it with others.
- Make a promise to someone, big or small, and follow through on it.



Suggested Wrap-Up:

“You’ve been learning about the layers of **honesty** the last several years. As you move beyond high school, how can you apply these strategies in the future in your everyday life? Remember, communicating **honesty** using empathy is a choice we make daily, one that strengthens our relationships and enriches our lives.”

HONESTY

Dilemma Cards



You accidentally damaged something, but no one saw.

What do you do?



You find a wallet on the ground with money inside.

Do you try to find the owner or keep the money?



A friend who previously took one of your courses offers you a copy of the final exam questions. You have been busy lately and this would alleviate some of the pressure on you to do well in this class.

Do you take the questions or not?



You forgot to do your homework, but your friend offers to let you copy his.

Do you copy it or do your own work?



At your job, a customer accidentally gives you too much money for her purchase and isn't expecting change.

Do you tell the customer and provide her with the correct change or keep quiet and keep the money?



Your friend asks you to "cover" for him by saying he was at your house when his parents question his whereabouts.

Do you go along with it or tell your friend you're not comfortable with that?



You accidentally post a photo of a friend in an embarrassing situation. He or she asks you to take it down, but it is getting a lot of "Likes."

Do you delete it right away or keep the post up?



Your coach often talks about good sportsmanship, and the players have agreed to adhere to a code of conduct. However, you have heard "trash talk" and witnessed attempts to distract opponents when the coaches are not looking. Among the players it feels like an expectation to take part in some of this conduct to fit in.

Do you participate or make a different choice?



This is a supplemental document to support the 9-12 Honesty Teacher Resource.