



LESSON 8.5 Knowing My Goals & Dreams

Module #8: Leadership

Defining oneself as a leader in the school starts early, and ninth graders need to understand this. There are identifying characteristics of effective leaders that can be learned and developed – but it takes practice. It is important for freshmen to be aware of the opportunities to practice and fine tune their leadership skills in high school.

Enduring Understandings

- I. **Effective leaders share common characteristics – characteristics that can be learned and developed.**
- II. There are many opportunities in high school to gain leadership experience.

Essential Questions

- I. **What are the characteristics of effective leaders? (I)**
- II. **What strategies can be employed to build leadership skills? (I)**
- III. What opportunities exist in our high school to gain leadership experience? (II)

Lesson Objective(s)

Students will learn techniques and develop skills to become better leaders in and out of the classroom.

Lesson 8.3

Lesson 8.4

Lesson 8.5

Lesson 8.6

Lesson 8.7

Directions:

1. Divide freshmen into small groups of 4-5 students. A student leader should be assigned to work with each small group. Give each group a large piece of paper and markers.
2. Explain to the class that the purpose of today’s activity is to understand the importance of goals and dreams and to start thinking about how to make them a reality. Each small group needs to design its perfect high school. Students can draw pictures, make lists, create charts — create whatever they want to visually display what this perfect high school will look like. For everything the group includes in its school, it must put someone in charge and think through how it will function.
3. Once groups have designed their perfect school, they should present it to the whole class. Each group member needs to state his/her responsibilities and how he/she would go about making all of this a reality.
4. The faculty advisor should gently “poke” holes in each plan to help freshmen understand that it is important to have goals and dreams -- and it’s also important to really think through how you can accomplish them.
5. Conclude the activity with a brief discussion about the importance of not only establishing goals and dreams, but also developing a plan to accomplish them. Perhaps even identify a few elements from all of the “schools” that really could become a reality!

Materials & Supplies

- Chart paper
- Masking tape
- Markers

**FOCUS
POINT**

Good leaders have goals – they dream big and are optimistic. This lesson gives freshmen the chance to dream big and have some fun – but it drives home the point that, with goals, comes the need to plan and focus – or success is unlikely.

- Just do it! Pick a few of the elements from the “perfect schools” to implement as a class. This class project will move the school even closer to really being perfect!

**resources
&
extension**