



LESSON 8.9 Create Your Own Experience with Your Attitude

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.

Challenge 3.4

Lesson 8.8

Lesson 8.9

Challenge 3.5

Challenge 3.5

Directions:

1. Prior to conducting this lesson, the faculty advisor and student leaders should research and identify a leader who has overcome a significant obstacle in life (i.e., a military veteran who lost a limb, a professional athlete who suffered a career-ending injury, etc.) and maintained a positive attitude to help and inspire others.
2. Locate a video, book, or article about the leader you select and prepare to share this with the class.
3. When students arrive for the lesson, talk about the importance of “attitude” in leadership. The best leaders maintain a positive attitude and always strive to push forward and get better.
4. Share the story of the leader you selected with the class. After watching (or reading), lead a discussion with the following questions:
 - How has keeping a positive attitude helped this leader get better and help others?
 - What can we all learn from the actions of this leader?
5. Have you ever encountered something difficult as a leader that, had you kept a more positive attitude, may not have been as bad? (This is a great opportunity for the faculty advisor and student leaders to share personal leadership stories of their own.)
5. Use the remaining time to have freshmen share stories of “positive attitude” leaders they know or for them to research the stories of other leaders that they can share with the class.

Materials & Supplies

- Video, book and/or article of selected leader

FOCUS POINT

Only YOU can create an experience. Anything can be turned into a positive. Anything also can be made bad. Leaders look for the positive in everything and try to make a positive experience for those around them.

- Issue a challenge to your freshmen. Have them think of an activity/task that they have to do that they really don't like. How can they “reshape” their thinking to make the activity/task more bearable? Spend some time sharing and discussing these ideas.

resources & extension