



OBJECTIVES

Student groups will:

- ▶ Define values, ethics and morals.
- ▶ Participate in a small group discussion that outlines the differences in these terms and explores the challenges to integrity in the classroom, home and social environments.
- ▶ Find articles in USA TODAY that present examples of integrity.
- ▶ Practice expressing personal integrity issues among peers.
- ▶ Describe an ethical or moral dilemma that a student might confront and provide at least two options for its resolution.

WEEK 1: Integrity can be described as a "firm adherence to a code of morals and values." Ask students to define *values*, *ethics* and *morals*. In what way are they similar? Different? Come up with three definitions for each term. Then, direct small groups to identify five to 10 daily choices that challenge their personal codes of integrity. Ask groups to write these examples on index cards to use as prompts for the final writing assignment.

WEEK 2: Now that you understand the complexity of integrity and the nuances of morals, ethics and values, use USA TODAY to locate two examples of individuals or organizations that have upheld integrity, and two examples of people or groups that have abandoned it. Then, answer the following questions: 1.) What contributes to an individual's ability to maintain integrity when standing alone? 2.) When an organization violates trust what are some of the repercussions that occur *outside* of the organization?

WEEK 3: You should now have a clear understanding of the personal and professional conflicts that challenge integrity. You have also identified examples of both ethical and unethical behavior. As a class, generate alternative solutions that could have been used in the cases where integrity was abandoned. What causes people/organizations to engage in unethical conduct? In other words, what are their motivations? Using your index cards and the alternatives generated in class, write a summary of a real-life ethical conflict, and list two or three possible resolutions to the dilemma.

WEEK 4: You have examined challenges to integrity and the choices that individuals and organizations make when facing ethical conflicts. In small groups, present the narratives and resolutions that you developed last week. Select the two narratives that best express your understanding of integrity. Share the narratives that your group chose with the rest of the class. Using a computer, clip art or comparative illustrator, and art supplies, compile your narratives into a book on integrity. Present your book to a younger class, your school counselors, the student council or the PTA.