

CHARACTER-BUILDING SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

The background of the entire page features two large, semi-transparent silhouettes of a man and a woman standing back-to-back. The man's silhouette is on the left, colored in a muted olive green, and the woman's silhouette is on the right, colored in a muted tan. They are positioned behind the main title text.

QUEST FOR RESPECT

TEACHER'S DISCUSSION GUIDE

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

QUEST FOR RESPECT is a high-energy three-screen multi-media adventure designed to challenge students to look beneath the surface of their lives to see how their character creates the respect others have for them. Their quest for respect can either lead them to a higher standard of character, bringing out the best they can be, or take them down into the abyss of negative activities and thoughts.

GROUP DISCUSSION

OBJECTIVES:

QUEST FOR RESPECT helps students discover that “true respect” isn’t something you just get, it’s something you earn. Too many believe they can get respect by looking tough, smoking, spending a lot of money, or by using illegal drugs. Others attempt to gain respect with force by lying, cheating or bullying others. Quest for Respect will demonstrate that “true respect” is defined by our character. Your students will discover that the pursuit of respect is a lifelong journey, sustained and proven by their actions every day.

1. **SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: INTERVIEW WITH P.R.I.D.E. STUDENTS – Part 1** The PRIDE program is an At-Risk program designed to help teens see the dangers of attempting to get respect the wrong way. These students have been seeking respect by stealing, joining gangs, smoking, doing drugs, ditching school, or being disrespectful. The PRIDE program highlights the possible results of these actions by taking them to a mortuary, prison, and skid-row.

A significant number of those on skid-row or in prison did poorly in school or dropped out of school. Not surprisingly, most of the people in prison or on skid-row were also involved in using or dealing drugs. Research indicates that most of those who start smoking or using drugs, do so to gain the respect of their peers. Discuss the value of this type of respect and the most likely consequences of attempting to get respect this way. Most students know that drugs, smoking, and alcohol are harmful to their health, but proceed to do them anyway. Why do they ignore the warnings and continue to do these and other negative activities when they know the consequences are not good?

2. **SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: INTERVIEW WITH DONNY ROBINSON - Part 1** Donny Robinson dreamed of becoming a professional BMX racer. He worked hard to develop his skills and won several races in his early teen years. He aspired to become a professional BMX racer. However, many said that he was too small to ever make it as a professional. The criticism hurt him and challenged his resolve to excel.

Talk about why people are critical of those who have aspirations to achieve big goals. How should we respond to the criticism of others? After watching an episode of American Idol tryouts a person wonders if some of these people truly understand how poor their singing abilities really are. How can we tell if the criticism toward us is an accurate description of our abilities? How can we know when it is time to persevere and ignore those negative comments?

3. **SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: INTERVIEW WITH DONNY ROBINSON - Part 2** The negative comments hurt Donny's feelings. However, he believed he had the ability to make it as a BMX professional. He trained hard, ignored the bullying comments and pressed on toward his goals. He excelled in the sport, becoming a four-time national champion and earned an Olympic bronze medal.

Bullying comments and criticism from those closest to you can be difficult to handle. Donny Robinson was hurt by the criticism but he used it as motivation to work harder to improve his skills as a BMX racer. Talk about methods you can use to ignore the bullying or criticism of others. What can you learn from Donny's example? How can you apply what you've learned from Donny to your life?

4. **SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: INTERVIEW WITH JORGE BATRES** Jorge moved to the United States from Mexico at a young age. Others at his school criticized him because he couldn't speak or understand English very well. He struggled to fit in at school. He found acceptance with those involved in doing wrong things. However, he didn't like where his life was headed with this group of friends. Jorge decided to earn the respect of others a different way. He set out to gain respect by creating a business, developing his musical talents, and getting involved with a positive group of friends.

Those who were bullying Jorge didn't go away, but today he has developed a self-respect that allows him to ignore those being critical of him. He is determined to excel in life. Discuss how having a goal in life helps you avoid the negative pressures that surround you. In today's world, cyber bullying is an unfortunate reality. How can self-respect help to alleviate the pain associated with those on-line attacks?

5. **SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: INTERVIEW WITH ASHTEN SMITH-GOODEN** Ashten is a star volleyball player; she has been aggressively recruited by over 50 colleges. But things haven't been easy for her. She has Type 1 diabetes, a potential deadly disease where the pancreas stops delivering insulin to the body. She has to monitor her blood sugar levels constantly, even during games.

Ashten was afraid of what others were thinking when she first began playing volleyball. She tried to hide the need to check her insulin levels and eat snacks to keep her levels balanced. Talk about why we might be fearful to let others know we have a problem. How can we help others feel more comfortable to share their struggles? Ashten finally opened up to her teammates about the disease. Talk about what you can learn about self-respect from her example.

6. **SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: INTERVIEW WITH THE P.R.I.D.E. STUDENTS - Part 2** The PRIDE students have learned that self-respect can help you change your life. The students experienced the excitement of living life in a way that was beneficial to them. They realized the importance of surrounding themselves with positive friends and discovered how much better they feel about themselves when they set out to improve the quality of their lives and the lives of others.

The PRIDE students discovered that life can be fun without drugs or doing bad stuff. They discovered what it's like to have good friendships - relationships that help you improve your life. Talk about why it may be important to change your friends if you desire to change the direction of your life. How might doing positive things increase your self-respect? How does self-respect improve the direction of your life? Discuss the difficulties one might face when attempting to move your life in a positive direction when surrounded by negative friends.

7. **SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: INTERVIEW WITH TRAVIS WALLER** Travis is the quarterback for the Servite High School football team. He has earned the respect of his teammates by working hard to develop his skills, being calm under pressure, and performing at a top level. He works equally as hard in the classroom, having earned the respect of his peers by motivating them to excel in their schoolwork.

Balancing friendships, schoolwork, and a sport can be challenging. Travis has found that it pays to be respectful to those around him in every part of his life. He is driven to excel and pushes those around him in the classroom and on the field to join him. How does his optimism in life motivate others to excel? Talk about how encouraging words and a belief in good results can motivate us to do our best. Discuss what we can do each day to challenge those around us to perform well in school. Discuss the respect we have for those who are encouraging us with their words and actions.

- 8. SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: MUSCATEL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM** The Muscatel Middle School Science Olympiad team must work together to perform well in State and National Science Olympiads. Their respect for each other is evident in how they encourage and challenge each other to practice and excel at their respective events. Their hard work has paid off once more as they won their sixth straight State Championship.

Successful teams respect each other and work together to achieve a common goal. Talk about how teammates can motivate and encourage each other to work harder in practice to further develop their skills. Discuss what might happen if teammates don't trust each other or second guess each other's decisions. Conflict exist even among the best of teammates, how can mutual respect help mend differences and lead to greater success for a team?

- 9. SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: INTERVIEW WITH CHALLENGER LEAGUE BUDDIES** The Challenger Baseball league is a baseball program for students with special needs. The program gives these students an opportunity to be a part of a team. Additionally, it gives teenagers in the local schools the opportunity to become a buddy to these students and make a difference in their lives. The buddies learn the power of mutual respect, seeing first-hand how someone who experiences bullying, criticism, or strange looks reacts when someone takes time to get to know them and befriends them through this sporting event.

Too often those with special needs are picked on or bullied by others at school. Talk about why people are critical of those with special needs. What can we do to support those with special needs and make them feel welcome and involved in the various activities at school? What did the buddies learn about those with special needs and themselves by working in this program?

- 10. SECTION OF SHOW TO DISCUSS: RESPECT IN ACTION** We respect those who make others feel better about themselves. We respect those who step out of their comfort zones to make a difference in the world around them.

Heroes are the people who reach out of their comfort zones for the well being and the safety of other people. How does being a person who helps others succeed generate respect? Discuss how developing a character built on honesty and trust makes you more respected in the eyes of others.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:

We are all on a quest to get respect. While on that quest, you will discover that if you want others to respect you; if you want your words to truly mean something, then you've got to realize that respect is earned. You'll find that your actions speak louder than words. The pursuit of respect starts with you; it begins with recognizing that respect is earned by being a person who is trustworthy and has integrity. Your quest for respect is a lifelong journey, sustained and proven by your actions each and every day.

QUEST FOR RESPECT

Outline

Program Description:

Quest for Respect is a motivational program highlighting the importance of developing character. Too many people attempt to get respect by doing wrong things or by bullying others. Quest for Respect demonstrates that “True Respect” is earned. The pursuit of respect is a life-long journey sustained and proven by your actions each and every day.

A. The Wrong Way to Attempt to Get Respect

1. Too many believe they can get respect by lying, cheating, or bullying others. This type of activity hurts others and creates a false sense of being respected.
2. Others go about attempting to get respect by looking tough, being disrespectful in class, smoking, spending a lot of money, or by using drugs or alcohol.

B. The Importance of Self-Respect

1. Developing your self-respect can help you overcome the negative comments of others.
2. Bullies prey on those whose confidence is low. Developing your self-respect will help you take a stand against bullying and make you feel better about yourself and where you are going.
3. Your self-respect will help you move toward your goals in life.

C. Power of Respecting Others

1. Teamwork requires mutual respect. Encouraging words and actions can motivate teammates to work harder to achieve a common goal.
2. Building others up increases their ability to do well and helps you feel better about yourself.
3. We respect those who step out of their comfort zones for the well being and safety of other people.

QUEST FOR RESPECT

Worksheet

- 1) Why do people resort to bullying in their attempts to get respect?
- 2) How might developing your self-respect help you overcome bullying?
- 3) Why do people think smoking or consuming drugs or alcohol will gain the respect of others?
- 4) How does self-respect help you resist the pressures to get involved with smoking, drugs, or alcohol?
- 5) Why is mutual respect important in a team's efforts to reach a team goal?
- 6) How might helping others raise your self-confidence and build up those who struggle with bullying or the critical remarks from others?