

Acceptance

Acceptance means respecting the differences among people. It entails recognizing different opinions and ideas.

Acceptance

1. Consider the definition of Acceptance above:

Point to Ponder – Accepting oneself is as important as accepting others.

2. Write what Acceptance means in your own words.

3. Accepting others involves recognizing and respecting different opinions and ideas. It does not mean that you agree with another person's beliefs, but rather that you respect their right to have their own opinions. Think about ways you demonstrate acceptance in your daily life. Fill in the blanks below:

- a) I show acceptance of others at school when I _____
- b) I am accepting of others in the workplace or in public by _____
- c) My acceptance of others is evident at home when I _____

4. Read the following information and complete the assignments below.

To be intolerant is to refuse to accept people who are different. Gossiping and name-calling are examples of intolerance. Name three ways people can be intolerant. Write complete sentences explaining how to change that behavior and show acceptance.

- 1) Intolerant behavior:

How to be accepting:

- 2) Intolerant behavior:

How to be accepting:

- 3) Intolerant behavior:

How to be accepting:



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5. Tolerance is often used as a synonym of acceptance. Robert Green Ingersoll, a Civil War veteran and noted orator during the 1800's said, "Tolerance is giving to every other human being every right that you claim for yourself." It can be difficult to show tolerance when another person's beliefs are totally opposite to yours. Accepting others does not indicate a lack of commitment, but rather a willingness to allow others to their own beliefs.

a) Are there any issues where you find it difficult to feel or show tolerance to others? Name one challenge and explain.

b) How can you demonstrate tolerance when you strongly oppose another person's opinions or beliefs?

c) What role does acceptance play in creating peace in your community or the world?

d) Describe how you would show acceptance for a co-worker who held diametrically opposite views to your own.

6. It is important to respect one another in the workplace for increased efficiency and productivity. An accepting environment is one in which employees are open to different ideas and methods of getting the job done. Imagine you are the manager of a company. You have noticed some employees gossiping and bullying their co-workers. Their behavior is creating a culture of disrespect and hostility. Write a short paragraph below explaining how you would handle this situation and create a workplace that includes courtesy and mutual respect.

7. Some people are uncomfortable with others who look, act or think differently. These individuals may favor people who are similar to them in appearance, belief, or some other aspect. When prejudicial behavior occurs in the workplace, it is called discrimination. Positive discrimination, such as Affirmative Action, seeks to ensure equal opportunity for all people. Negative discrimination occurs when someone is not hired or is passed over for a promotion solely because of their race, gender, ethnicity, or for some other characteristic. Acceptance engenders mutual understanding and respect amid differences. How can the following actions increase acceptance in the workplace?

a) Stand up for someone who is being bullied or unfairly criticized.

b) Advocate for others who are in the minority.

c) Look for common ground on which to build a cooperative relationship.

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8. Write a short, concise sentence that you could include on your resume or in a cover letter to a prospective employer that describes how or why your Acceptance of others will be an asset to the business.

Writing Prompt for Essay:

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Essay Assignment: Ralph Sockman said, "The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority." On a separate sheet of paper, write a 250-word essay explaining what the quote means to you. Include two examples from your life, the media, or from a work of fiction, that support the message of the quotation.