

Lesson Plan # 6—Global

Title: Role Models – Defining Positive Role Models

Objectives: In this lesson, the participants will:

1. Develop a list of qualities that depict positive role models.
2. Identify positive role models in the present time.
3. Research positive role models from the past.

Session Time: 50-60 minutes

Materials: Marker board/Chalk board, computers with Internet access. If no Internet access is available you will need encyclopedias or other research sources, such as a trip to the local library.

Methods: Guided discussion, handouts, online research, demonstration

Procedure:

Positive role models are important because they set examples for people to observe and pattern positive behaviors from. As people increase positive behaviors they also increase their feelings of self-worth. Patterning behaviors from positive role models can also help people build morals and positive values, teach them to set attainable goals, and provide direction in achieving those goals. Most importantly, positive role models provide a sense of hope and examples to prove that dreams and goals can be fulfilled.

Anyone can be role model--a teacher, a parent, a friend, an athlete, a relative, but what characteristics or qualities constitute a good role model?

1. Prior to class, write the following question on the board, "What qualities do you think a positive role model should possess?" Ask students to brainstorm a list of qualities or characteristics that positive role models possess. Write the list on the board and discuss the characteristics with the students.
2. Instruct the students to consider the list and think of someone they know who is a positive role model. Have them spend a few minutes to write about that person and what characteristics they possess.
3. Ask the students to share their papers with the class.
 - This is the time to identify students that may have problems recognizing anyone in their life as a positive role model. You may need to help them

identify someone or else you can tell them to make up the person they would want to have as a positive role model.

- At a later time you will want to consider pairing the student with a mentor to supply a positive role model in the student's life.

4. Divide the class into teams. Assign each team a time period in history to research a positive role model of that period on the Internet. Who was considered ideal in the 1970's? What about the 1960's or earlier? (Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., etc.) Have ideals changed that define a positive role model? If so, what caused the change?

5. Have each team develop a presentation for the rest of the class. Discuss the role models from years past that were presented.

Teacher Information Sheet

What Constitutes a Role Model

Characteristics of positive role models include:

- Feels a sense of duty to better "society" or work for the common good of the community
- Compassionate
- Has developed powerful and effective habits of the mind and soul
- Can work through challenges
- Committed to what he or she does
- Capacity to achieve goals and obtain self-fulfillment
- Possesses high standards and values
- Admired for courage and strength
- Models forgiveness
- Trustworthy
- Demonstrates humility
- Peaceful
- Wise
- Admits when they are wrong
- Genuine love
- Discernment - understands the whole situation

Note: This lesson is included in the workshop, *Defining Positive Role Models*, in the *SIPDC Catalog of Professional Development Opportunities*.