

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

for use with
Program 2

The RESPECT Connection

In the Video Series



Created and Produced by
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in association with Character Counts!
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HOW TO USE THIS VIDEO

Use in classrooms, libraries, youth groups, or view it at home.

This video, along with the facilitator's guide and website, is designed to help teachers engage students in classroom discussion and other activities leading to deep, meaningful reflection about the kinds of people they are and want to be.

Have a great discussion!

Thoughtful, reflective discussions are essential to getting the most out of these videos. You will find some very fruitful facilitation techniques, including **Socratic Method**, at our special character education website at <www.goodcharacter.com>. The questions in this discussion guide begin on page 9.

www.goodcharacter.com provides a wealth of helpful material including questions, assignments, and activities for special topics such as **sports, workplace readiness**, and others. Please utilize this very valuable resource.



WHAT IS RESPECT?

In this program Respect means:

- 🍏 Treating people the way you want to be treated.
- 🍏 Treating people with civility, courtesy, dignity.
- 🍏 Being sensitive to other people's feelings.
- 🍏 Not insulting people or making fun of them.
- 🍏 Not ridiculing or embarrassing people.
- 🍏 Not going along with prejudices or racist attitudes.

PROGRAM CONTENT

Benjoy, a fourteen year old boy, is presenting his classroom video blog on the topic of respect. Through a combination of skits, group discussions, commentaries, and a short documentary, Benjoy's blog reveals how young people think about and practice respect for others. Benjoy explores the idea that how we treat each other and the world around us matters. We listen in on discussions among young people focusing on their thoughts regarding respect. Challenged by an animated Mother Earth who thinks nobody respects her, Benjoy narrates a documentary of an educational program in Georgia where kids are tackling the issue of respect for the earth through their own hard work.

Part I – Skit:

The Pain of Disrespect.

Benjoy starts his blog by asking us if we have ever had one of those days where we just couldn't get any respect. He narrates a skit depicting a day like that for a boy who is teased, bullied, and made fun of. We see the pain that disrespect can cause us in our daily lives.

Parts II, III, and IV form a thirteen minute discussion. Benjoy poses a variety of questions about the idea of respect. We see groups of young teens discussing respect and telling stories and providing examples from their own experience.

Part II – Group Discussion: Respect and Disrespect.

How Do You Act Respectfully?

The kids point out that by really listening to what a person is telling you, you show respect. Then there is the every day aspect of respect with strangers, classmates, and teachers. You have to be nice to people, and be polite. You don't have to like them;

you just have to follow regular rules of etiquette and politeness.

How Do You Treat People With Respect?

Treat others the way you want to be treated, because people aren't going to treat you with respect unless you treat them with respect. In public try not to push people; you need to be respectful just walking around. When you're having a conversation, listening is important. If you don't listen when others are talking to you, you show disrespect and you make the whole conversation meaningless.

Have you Been Disrespected by Strangers?

The kids tell stories of public disrespect. One girl imitates someone in a restaurant talking loudly on a cell phone, which is disrespectful to other diners. One student tells a story to point out that people should be mindful of his surroundings. His mother was walking down the street when a man bumped into her. She slipped and hurt her wrist and had to wear a sling. But the guy didn't acknowledge what he had done and just kept on running.

Have You Yourself Been Disrespectful to Others?

The kids confess that they have talked back to teachers, or sometimes said hurtful words to kids. They are sorry that they didn't speak out when someone else said something hurtful. One girl feels bad about walking out of classes when she was angry, because in doing so, she was showing disrespect for the teacher who is "working hard to help students get far in their lives. One girl applies the golden rule to her own conduct. She says that sometimes she pushes people to get into the subway, but she regrets doing that because she knows she doesn't like it when people push her. One boy says that when he's on busses or trains he often plays his music too loud, and yet he knows that not everyone wants to hear his music. One boy takes a real world approach by recognizing that everyone has been a little disrespectful at least once in his life. "You can't say, 'I've never been disrespectful,' you know, because that's impossible."

Part III – Interviews with Kids On the Street

Benjy asks, “Who Do You Respect?”

- I respect my mom and my brother because they are always there when I need them.
- I respect my friends, because they are there for me and help with situations and stuff.
- I respect my grandfather. Sure, he’s old. But he’s still kickin’.
- I respect my teachers because they teach me stuff, and they’re also really nice.
- I respect my parents because they raised me and deserve respect.
- I respect my music teacher, because not only does he teach us songs, but he teaches us life lessons that are good to know.
- I respect myself, because I feel like I should live by my own standards. I feel like I should be able to respect myself as well as respect others.

Who Do you Disrespect?

- I don’t really disrespect anybody.. at least I try not to.
- I disrespect anyone who is mean to anybody else, because being mean is just wrong.
- I disrespect people who feel like their whole life is a competition. It kind of takes the spirit out of having fun.
- I disrespect people who disrespect me, because I don’t like to be disrespected. If they are going to treat me like that, then I’m going to treat them like that.

Part IV – Group Discussion: More Personal Stories

How Do You Earn Respect From Others?

One student points out that we earn respect only when we go out of our way to be respectful. One girl disagrees with that notion. She tells us that she was a really nice person in school, and she got made fun of for having a lot of hair. They called her “hairy” and said things like, “take that mustache off, it’s not Halloween.” She tells us she didn’t have any friends and was really hurt. The discussion continues with one kid saying that when we takes the time to either apologize or to understand other people’s differences,

it shows respect, and is almost guaranteed to get respect back.

Respecting Each Other's Differences

Against a background of images of a very diverse school culture, one of the kids says that where they live, there are people from many races and cultures, and that is very healthful. It teaches us how to respect other people and cultures. A girl comments that she knows that she is different from other people. She's skinny and blond, and so some people say she's dumb or anorexic. But it is wrong to jump to conclusions about people.

Respecting Ideas

It's one thing to respect somebody and yet another to respect ideas you may disagree with. An example is respecting someone even if that person believes something completely different from you. One girl comments that she wasn't brought up religiously, but she recognized that she has to respect other people who have really firm religious beliefs. She sees that she has to learn to respect that everyone has a different take on life.

How Aidan Disrespected Vanessa:

Here is a very real and revealing story . . . Vanessa tells how a day earlier Aidan was fooling around squirting everyone with a water bottle. Vanessa tried to take it from him, but the bottle cut her hand. Aidan gave a kind of cursory apology. Vanessa couldn't believe it, because she really got hurt. On camera Aidan confesses, "I neglected to respect Vanessa . . . I gave her an apology but it was nonchalant." Vanessa says, "I didn't really feel like I was being respected, but earlier today he gave me a nice apology letter." Vanessa tells us what to take away from this incident: "You might not be having a good day . . . and it might not really matter to you. But it matters to another person. So you have to see somebody else's side first."

Have you ever Been Disrespected by Your Friends?

The students tell stories about their relationships. They talk of sincerity, calling friends on their behavior, or simply not making a big deal of minor

slights. A boy expands the discussion to the issue of race. He is Hispanic, and sometimes his friends tease him about it. The boy says, “You know, I just have to walk away from it. But then there are times when they push just a little too much, and it makes me feel uncomfortable around them.” A friend points out, “he knows that if anyone else were to say those things, we would be behind him, sticking up for him. When we do it, he knows we aren’t serious. And if he doesn’t, we are quick to apologize.” A girl tells us, “it’s really easy to disrespect people; they can just take it back. It’s just forgotten, but someone’s feelings are still hurt.”

How Can Respect Affect the World?

A young girl from Thailand says that her mom owns a Thai grocery store. When other Thai people come in to the restaurant, they always say hello to her with their hands together. That is “Sawatdee Kaa.” She tells us that “it’s a sign of respect and is really comforting.”

The Hispanic boy points out that some people think they are better than everyone else. “If everyone in the world just took a second and looked at each other, we’re not different. We’re all the same people. We might have different skin color, different personalities. But we all have brains, and we use them, and if we just got to know each other, like you get to know your friends, then the world would be a better place.”

This Group Discussion ends with a group of kids bowing respectfully, silently expressing “Sawatdee Kaa.”

Part V – Documentary: Respecting Our Planet

Benjy echoes what one of the kids in the discussion said: “Now there’s a thought. Just by respecting each other, we can make the world a better place.”

Just then an animated Mother Earth pushes Benjy’s blog off the screen and states skeptically: “Make the world a better place? I can tell you a thing or two about making the world a better place. You can show some respect for me, the earth. That’s Mother Earth to you.”

Mother Earth tells Benjy about how she sustains us with food, air, and water. She demonstrates that without her gravitational pull, we'd all go floating off into space. She then lists the many ways we are disrespecting her – from littering to global warming.

Benjy tells Mother Earth that many people really do care about her. And to prove his point he introduces us to some kids in Georgia who are making a real difference.

In this documentary we see how some young teens have given up part of their summer vacation to learn about taking care of our planet. They learn how to monitor water quality and the health of streams.

Then Benjy shows Mother Earth how these students are working to clean up a very polluted stream. We see the students hauling garbage from an area across from a school. The kids are upset that young children have to play right here amidst all this pollution. They talk about how the people that live here didn't show respect for their community or for the environment. We see the kids removing enormous quantities of waste: old clothes, crashed cars, piles of tires. The students feel that by cleaning up here, they are making the world a better place.

Benjy begs Mother Earth not to give up on us, because a lot of people are working hard to take care of the planet. Mother Earth is impressed and decides to give us all one more chance.

Part VI – Benjy's Conclusion

In his summary, Benjy tells us to remember the golden rule, which applies to us as well as to our planet. He then reminds us that it's all up to us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Questions to ask before showing the video:

What does it feel like to be respected?

What does it feel like to be disrespected?

What role does respect play in your relationships with friends and family?

Questions to ask after showing the video:

1. What are some respectful behaviors?
2. How important is respect in our lives? Why?
3. Do you consider yourself to be a respectful person? Why, or why not? In what ways do you show respect to others?
4. One student in the video said that you don't have to like someone to respect him/her. Do you agree? Why, or why not?
5. Describe one person you respect in your life. What does this person do to earn your respect?
6. Does a person have to earn respect, or do all people deserve it?
7. How do **you** show respect to others? Do you show respect to strangers differently than you do to friends?
8. Does it feel different to be disrespected by a stranger than to be disrespected by a friend? How?
9. What are the benefits of people treating each other with respect?
10. When was the last time you disrespected someone? What was the reason? How did you express this disrespect? What effect did your behavior have?

11. When was the last time someone disrespected you? What do you think was their reason for treating you in that way?
12. What are some reasons people show disrespect for others?
13. How do you feel when someone judges you without knowing you or giving you a chance?
14. How do you feel when someone you disagree with calls you a name?
15. In the video several students talked about the role that “differences” play in how people respect or disrespect others. What role do you think differences play in our positive or negative attitudes to other people?
16. Does respect play a role in harmonious race relations? Explain.
17. In the video some students talked about the idea that, “It’s one thing to respect a person, but another to respect that person’s beliefs.” What did she mean? Can you think of someone you know who has a different set of beliefs than you? How do you respond to different beliefs?
18. In the group discussion, Vanessa and Aidan talked about the incident with the water bottle in which Aidan cut Vanessa and didn’t give her a real apology right away. Have you ever experienced something similar? What happened?
19. How do you feel when someone bumps into you in the hall and doesn't apologize? What does saying “I’m sorry” have to do with respect?
20. Agree or disagree: Courtesy and politeness are only for adults. Explain your answer.
21. One of the kids in the video said that if someone treats you with disrespect, you don’t have to treat that person with respect. Do you agree? How should you respond to someone who is disrespectful of you?

22. How do you think respect affects your community, the world?

23. Does everyone deserve respect? Why? Or why not?

24. Think of the students from Georgia and their stream clean up. Have you or your friends done something to help take care of our environment? What did you do? How did it make you feel?

25. What is the difference between respecting a person and respecting our planet?

*For questions relating to **special topics such as sports, workplace readiness, etc.**, visit www.goodcharacter.com*

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Write down the name of someone in your life right now whom you respect very much. Name two things that person does that cause you to respect him/her. Do you share either of those traits with that person?
2. Write about a time recently when you felt you didn't treat someone with respect. Describe the situation. Why did it happen? Was it the right thing to do? What were the consequences? How did it make the other person feel? Would you behave differently if you were given another chance? How, and why or why not? What did you learn from the experience?
3. Write about a time when you felt you were treated disrespectfully. What suggestions would you have for the other person to treat you better?
4. Write about something you see in your school, your neighborhood, or the world that shows a lack of respect. What would you do to change it?
5. Write a letter to someone in your life whom you respect. Tell why and how you respect him/her. Send the letter to that person.
6. One student in Benjy's blog talks about how people make assumptions that aren't necessarily true about other people. Write about a time when someone made an assumption about you, or you made an assumption about someone else. What does this situation have to do with respect?
7. Make a list of ways in which people show disrespect for Mother Earth. Now make another list of things we can do to show her our respect.
8. Describe three things you could do to be a more respectful person. How would that affect your relationships with others? How does it benefit you to be a respectful person?

GROUP ACTIVITIES

1. Have students break into groups of three and share a time when they felt disrespected. What was the situation and how did it make them feel? Have students report back to the larger group on behalf of someone else in their group. The report consists of two parts: a) what was the situation and what emotions did it involve *and* b) what could you say or do to help that person either at the time or afterward?
2. As a large group, brainstorm issues or places you see in your community or the world that make you angry because they demonstrate a lack of respect. Then, in smaller groups, pick one issue per group and brainstorm some things you could do that would address that issue. If possible, follow through with some direct action to try to improve the situation.
3. Invite someone to come to your class who works with environmental issues. Have that person talk about how what they do deals with the issue of respect. After his/her visit, write a thank you letter explaining how you respect what that person is doing.
4. Bring in articles from newspapers or from the internet that deal with people respecting or disrespecting other people. Think of some actions that could be taken to improve the situation presented in the article.
5. In the video a Thai girl talks about how comforting it is to have other Thai people hold their hands together and bow to her. As a group do research on the internet to discover some ways different cultures have for treating people with respect. Present these to the class.
6. Brainstorm ways to make your school environment more respectful. Create a list of recommendations and place them in your school newspaper or on a poster. Compare your list with the one on page 2 of this guide.

This content-rich website is loaded with free resources to help you do the job!

Please visit this website to find:

- ❖ **Facilitation techniques** for conducting meaningful, productive classroom discussions, including **Socratic Method**.
- ❖ **Additional discussion questions, writing assignments, and learning activities.”**
- ❖ **Opportunities for your students** to become involved in activities and issues relating to the topics in these videos.
- ❖ **Links** to key character education organizations and resources.
- ❖ **Articles** and other writings on educating for character.
- ❖ Special discussion guide supplements for use with **sports programs, workplace readiness programs,** and other areas of special interest.
- ❖ **The Daily Dilemma** - an ongoing series of moral and ethical discussion starters from the case files of Charis Denison.

This video series was produced in association with
CHARACTER COUNTS!sm

The CHARACTER COUNTS! coalition is a consortium of the nation's largest and most influential educational and youth-serving organizations united in one over-riding mission: strengthening the character of America's youth.



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