



Integrity and Ethics

Materials:

- Worksheet
- Colored pencils (optional)

Brainstorm

Ask students: Think of a time that you were proud of yourself. What did you do? Call on student volunteers to share their responses.

Discuss

Some of the examples provided were for times when someone did the right thing. They were examples of people who were acting with integrity. What does it mean to act with integrity? What are some examples of things that people with integrity do? Continue to engage students on the topic as long as the discussion is fruitful.

Dive in!

Detail: Integrity means being honest and doing the right thing. Ethics are a system of principles connected to what is right and wrong. We determine our ethics from our morals and values. Ethics are individually tailored to a person's life experience, but they are also based on our shared experiences. We may have individual beliefs about what is right or wrong, but there are some universal behaviors that are considered acceptable and unacceptable. What are some behaviors that we all agree are acceptable or unacceptable? Accept student responses and create a list on the board. If not otherwise suggested, you may wish to add: lying, cheating, or stealing as unacceptable and friendship and trust for acceptable.

Activity

Distribute the worksheet to students. Explain: You can think about your ethics and integrity like a compass. A compass helps you determine which direction you are going in and guides you in getting where you need or want to go. Each one of us has our own moral compass that helps us decide right from wrong. When you are faced with a difficult decision, you can use your moral compass to guide you to act with integrity and according to your ethics. On the top of the compass you will list beliefs and behaviors that you think are acceptable or "right." On the bottom of the compass, list beliefs and behaviors that you think are unacceptable or "wrong."



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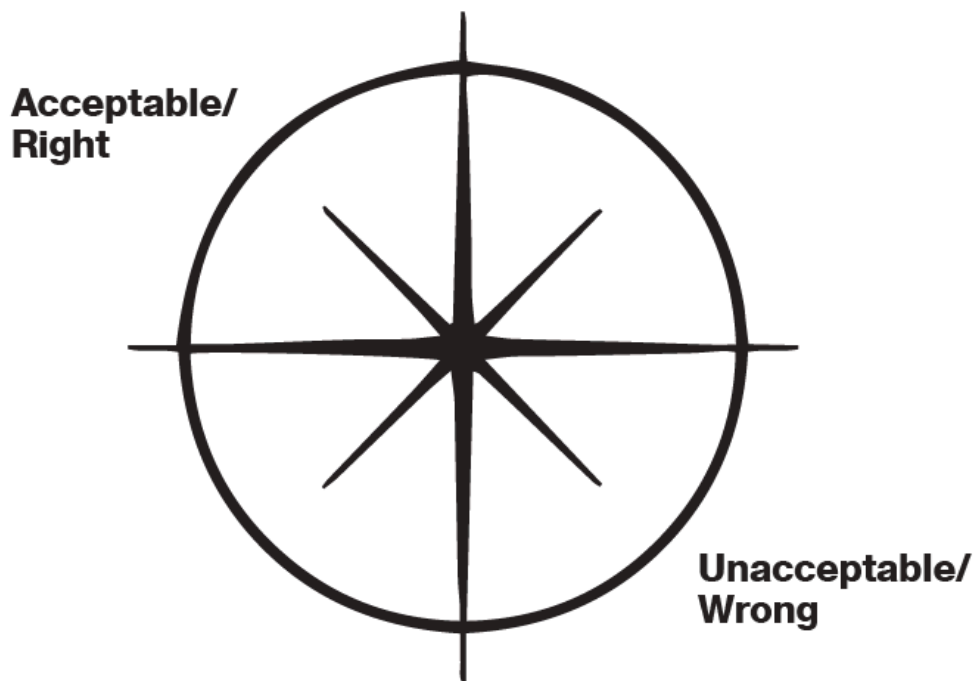
Today we are going to personalize our compasses by adding our beliefs about right and wrong to the top and bottom. Students can work individually, in pairs, or in groups, but each student should come up with their own compass. When they're done, call on student volunteers to share their compass with the class.

Reflect

Ask students to respond to the Reflect question in writing on the worksheet.

Professional Development

Take 5 minutes and create a compass for yourself in the space below.





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For Further Study

- The Atlantic: Students' Broken Moral Compasses
<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/07/students-broken-moral-compasses/492866>
- Edutopia: How to Approach Moral Issues in the Classroom:
<https://www.edutopia.org/how-approach-moral-issues-classroom>
- Psychology Today: Integrity in the Classroom:
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-moment-youth/201509/integrity-in-the-classroom>