



Work Ethic Worksheet

This activity was created to be used primarily with:

5. Work Ethic

Secondary skills include:

3. Initiative and Self-Direction

4. Integrity

8. Respect for Diversity

10. Teamwork

13. Continuous Learning and Adaptability

20. Professionalism

Teachers should introduce this worksheet and have students complete it. The introduction should include the workplace readiness skills definition of “work ethic” and some analysis. The main point behind this activity is to get students to understand that there are drivers and motivators inside them that cause them to behave in certain ways. The demonstration of work ethic is an extremely important behavior to encourage while discouraging behaviors that undermine it. Students may not be professionally employed, and yet they still have examples of work ethic they can take from their daily lives. How are these “beliefs” or “mindsets” of work ethic shown? Why are they valued by employers? It might be argued that a good work ethic is always tied in some way to a positive attitude. And a positive attitude at work can be infectious.

1. What are the main differences between “ethics” and “work ethic”?

2. So, if work ethic lives inside of us, just as with other values (e.g., pride, optimism), how does work ethic reveal itself in your behaviors? How is it demonstrated? How can you act it out?

What are the benefits of cultivating and successfully demonstrating work ethic? What are the drawbacks of not doing so?



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- Diligence (e.g., working with persistence)
Example of diligence:

Example of the opposite of diligence:

Why does your employer want you to demonstrate diligence?

- Dependability (e.g., being reliable)
Example of dependability:

Opposite of dependability:

Why does your employer want you to demonstrate dependability?

- Responsibility and accountability
Example of taking responsibility and being accountable:

Example of the opposite of taking responsibility and being accountable:

Why does your employer want you to take responsibility and be accountable for your decisions and actions? Why should you accept consequences?

How can you develop aspects of work ethic? In what ways can you show a more positive attitude?



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Any behavior can be learned and developed. But if you want to get better at any behavior, you need to practice it until the mindset is implanted in your psyche, or basically until you no longer have to think about it anymore. You just do it, because the behavior has been adopted. You might believe that “who you are” is simply about the things you like, the things you avoid, things you are good at, and your inner or emotional life. But the way the world sees you is based on the decisions you make and how your behaviors affect others. Work ethic might require inner resources like integrity, motivation and discipline, but it is observed by how you demonstrate it.