



How to Use this Book

The Virtues Project Educator’s Guide is designed to give educators tools and strategies to help them shape character by creating a positive, empowering culture or environment in which children are learning and growing. These strategies can be easily integrated into the curriculum, the disciplinary system and social atmosphere of any school or organization. The Virtues Project is a positive, holistic program which has been used in many cultures and countries throughout the world to bring out the best in children and adults.

This Guide highlights Examples of Excellence from schools around the globe to give you concrete examples of how to apply The Virtues Project strategies in your own school or program.

The activities at the back of each chapter and each virtue are designed for a wide range of age and grade levels, from K to 12. Many of them apply to all ages. However, we leave it to you to decide which activities are appropriate for the age, social and cultural group with whom you are working and how to adjust the activities to fit your students.

Counselors will find Chapter 5 on the Art of Spiritual Companionship particularly useful in their work with students. It presents a method which helps students to “get to the heart of the matter” and call on the virtues of their character to solve their own problems. It is a useful tool in grief work and suicide prevention as well.

This Guide is divided into three sections and contains:

Section 1: Simple Ways to Create a Culture of Character

- A chapter on each of the Five Strategies of The Virtues Project.
- Methods for applying each strategy.
- Examples of Excellence from schools and programs throughout the world.
- Classroom activities, student activity sheets, and school-wide activities at the end of each chapter.
- A Chapter Summary, with a list of key points.

Section 2: Virtues: The Gifts of Character

- 52 Virtues, from Assertiveness to Unity.
- How to use the virtues for classroom and school-wide activities.
- A definition of each virtue, why practice it, role-playing scenarios, signs of success and an affirmation on the first page of each virtue.
- Suggested activities, reflection questions, art projects, and “quotable quotes” which can be posted, on the second page of each virtue.
- A poster: “Virtues: The Gifts of Character” at the end of the section.

Section 3: Resources

- Information on The Virtues Project website.
- Books and music about the virtues.
- Information on how to order Virtues Project materials.
- How to arrange for Virtues Project presentations and workshops.