Responsibility: What is it?
Responsibility is being accountable for one’s actions and to know and follow various rules, laws, and conduct codes. Responsible citizens treat others fairly, are trustworthy, honor their commitments, and are environmentally aware. Responsibility infuses itself into all aspects of our lives - athletics, giving others opportunities to shine, and making the right decision.

The following are short video clips that depict these aspects of responsibility.

SHORT VIDEO CLIPS ON RESPONSIBILITY:

Enjoy this month’s newsletter!

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” -- Theodore Roosevelt

The immortal words of Teddy Roosevelt remind us of the need to take responsibility for all of our actions. How do we accomplish this? The first step is to let your actions match your words. If you agree to do something, do it. By keeping your word, you are demonstrating respect for the person to whom you made the promise as well as being accountable for what you said you would do.

Furthermore, you must take ownership of your actions. If you make a mistake, admit it.
“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.”

-- Abraham Lincoln

No one is perfect. By admitting fault, you are showing that you are willing to learn from your mistakes and make amends for any negative consequences of your actions.

Responsible people are also trustworthy. They make sure that if a friend tells them a secret, that this information stays a secret. They do not gossip or spread rumors. Additionally, responsible people take care of items that they have borrowed from siblings, family members, and friends. They treat the items as if these items belonged to them. Often, they make sure the item is returned in better condition than when they received it.

You can be a model of responsibility by doing the following:

**RE** - Respect other people's opinions and items.

**SP** - Show positive character, even if no one is watching.

**ON** - Own up to mistakes and never make excuses for your actions.

**SI** - Be successful at managing independence. Do what needs to be done without having to be reminded.

**BI** - Be a positive influence on your friends and family.

**LI** - Look for ways to be involved in your school or community.

**TY** - Take responsibility for your actions.

This modified ACROSTIC activity may be something you wish for your students to do on their own.

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**WORKING WITH QUOTATIONS**

Quotations are a great way to inspire your students to engage in a quick write. For this activity, ask your students to rank the following 5 quotes in order of how meaningful they would be to a child/teenager, a parent, and a grandparent. Ask the students to explain why they ranked the quotes the way they did.

1. “You can pretend to care, but you can’t pretend to show up.” - George L. Bell, Civic Leader

2. “The happiest people I have known have been those who gave themselves no concern about their own souls, but did their utmost to mitigate the miseries of others.” - Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Social Activist

3. “Responsibility finds a way. Irresponsibility makes excuses!” - Gene Bedley, National Educator of the Year

4. “Honor isn’t about making the right choices. It’s about dealing with the consequences.” - Midori Koto, character from Highlander the TV series

5. “With great power comes great responsibility.” - Stanley, Martin Lieber, quote from Spiderman movie

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**DISCUSSION STARTERS**

**Secondary**

Technology infuses our lives, and social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) have changed how we interact with each other. How do we use this forum responsibly? What would be considered irresponsible behavior?

**Elementary**

Everyone has responsibilities. What are some of the responsibilities that you have? Describe these in detail to a classmate.