

Foundational Principles Walkabout

Empowered's Foundational Principles (Principles) create a shared language and understanding of what creates value in our lives. Students will be asked to share their thoughts about a Principle and give feedback on their classmates' thoughts. This activity will spur a conversation amongst your students about what these values mean to each individual, what they mean to the classroom, and what they mean to the market outside the classroom.

PREPARATION

- Decide how you will assign students to eight teams, noting that each team will be asked to discuss/share on one Principle.
- Prepare materials for each team (1 sheet of large paper, a pad of smaller sticky notes, dots of both colors, markers)

INTRODUCTION

The idea of this activity is to move beyond simply knowing the definitions of Empowered's 8 Principles. We want students to discuss what these principles mean to them, what they mean to the Empowered classroom, and what they mean in the real world outside the classroom.

The goal of this activity is to develop a shared language about these 8 principles and why they are important.

ACTIVITY STEPS

Choose a few discussion questions from below to ask your students.

1. Divide students into eight teams, assign each team a different Principle and give them their materials.
2. Briefly discuss the Foundational Principles and why you are focusing on these principles.
3. Give teams 7 minutes to decide on and write their answers to questions on their large paper. As the educator, choose 3 of the questions below to use for this activity or write your own, but not all of them. Modify the questions based on your age group.
4. When time is up, ask teams to hang their posters where everyone can see them.
5. Then, give everyone 5-7 minutes to walk about the classroom with the following instructions:
 - Place a dot (color 1:2) if they agree with what was written.
 - Place a dot (color 2:2) if they have some reservations about what was written.
 - Place a Post-It sticky if they disagree with what was written AND to clarify why they disagree.
6. Once time expires, have teams retrieve their posters and return to their tables in their original groups. Give teams another 5-7 minutes to, as a group, review poster feedback and prepare a 1-minute recap based on the surprises/learnings/a-ha moments from the feedback (agreements, partial agreements, disagreements, etc.).
7. Have each team share their 1-minute pitch with the class with time for discussion after each presentation.

ACTIVITY TIME

45 Minutes

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Responsibility; Passion; Integrity; Knowledge; Opportunity; Freedom; Sound Judgment; Win-Win Focus

KEY CONCEPTS

Cooperation; Economic Thinking; Respect; Toleration

MATERIALS NEEDED

Needed: Empowered CODEC, 8 large sheets of paper/poster board, Post-it notes, dot stickers (2 colors NOT the same color as Post-it notes), writing utensils
Optional: Empowered Currency

ACTIVITY DEBRIEF

Choose a few discussion questions from below to ask your students.

- Which Principles did your team exhibit while designing your poster?
- Think about the entire activity from designing your poster, to commenting on the posters of other teams, to considering the feedback your team received about its poster. Which Principles might have been applied more effectively to improve the learning process and outcome for you?
- How could (or did) currency motivate your group when creating posters?
- How did the sticky notes and dots left by classmates impact you and your team's feelings about your poster? How do these feelings relate to the idea of incentives?
- Why was it important to hear other teams share about their Principle verbally vs. just reading ideas on a poster? What else is exchanged when someone is speaking?
- What did you learn about yourself during this activity?
- What do you feel was the comparative advantage you brought to your team?
- What comparative advantages do you think your teammates brought to the activity?
- How might others' understandings of the Principles impact your considerations for future decisions?
- Did your idea of what that Principle meant to you change as you heard other perspectives throughout the activity?