

### Contract for Character Development and Leadership Class

**Instructor Pledge:** I pledge to give 100% of my energy and dedication to this class. This means I will adequately prepare for class, be on time, and assist students toward the goal of earning an A. I pledge to set high expectations for the students and help them attain those expectations. I will respect students' views and encourage their involvement. I definitely want students to succeed in this class, but I will not hold anybody's hand. Everybody will get a fair deal and will earn their grade for the course. Finally, I want students to succeed in life. I will set up opportunities for each student to apply the concepts and characteristics of this class to their own personal lives.

**Student Pledge:** As a student, I pledge to provide my best effort toward earning an A in this course. Minimally, that means attending class on time, bringing appropriate class materials, completing my assignments and maintaining civility. Realistically, to earn an A, I will have to put in 1 ½ - 3 hours a week of homework: 1 hour to complete the reading and 1-2 hours to complete the weekly assignment. As a student, I pledge to respect other classmates and the instructors. I will take this class seriously and approach each week with a positive attitude. Finally, I will attempt to apply the concepts of this class to my own life and try to make the life of others just a little bit better.

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Instructor

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Student

## Group Dynamics

- With very few exceptions, everything said in class, stays in class. The instructor and students should refrain from gossiping and discussing the personal lives of classmates.
- Raise your hand and talk one at a time. This type of environment is new for many. As such, you will hear ideas that might upset you, excite you, or make you want to comment. However, remember to raise your hand and talk only when called on. The goal is to create an organized exchange of ideas – not chaos.
- We need your input. Everybody is capable of contributing something important to the class. While we recognize that everybody has a bad day, your input counts and your voice has meaning.
- Put-downs are not allowed. In order to create a safe environment for students to talk openly, students need to know their opinions will be respected.
- Students should use ‘I’ statements and speak about their personal beliefs, instead of criticizing others and using “you” statements.
  - Example: I disagree...
  - Example: I believe...
  - Example: I wouldn’t do it that way. I would...
- One of the most important skills in this class is listening. Listening shows respect, and it provides you with information to create your own opinions.
- There are no bad questions except the ones that go unasked. Nobody is expected to know everything.
- Provide feedback. If you have ideas about improving the class, please voice your opinions. The instructor is willing to listen and make positive changes.

## Value Clarification & Decision Making

- **FIRST STEP – GATHER INFORMATION:** Listen to what others have to say. Do your own research and investigation. Learn the facts to make more informed decisions. This is the only way to understand all the facts and viewpoints on any given topic.
- **SECOND STEP – CONTEMPLATION:** Give serious consideration to different viewpoints and consider them as you contemplate your values.
- **THIRD STEP – CREATING VALUES:** Now that you are equipped with facts and have listened to other viewpoints, you are now prepared to create your personal values. This should be done independently of what others believe – rather it should come from within. The best way to create your own values is to write down what you believe and why.
- **FOURTH STEP – WALKING THE WALK:** The ultimate challenge is staying true to your values, especially when confronted by peers who might disagree. A person with integrity chooses behaviors that match her/his personal values.
- **FIFTH STEP – RE-EXAMINE:** Your values will change as you mature and gain life experience. Don't ever become too rigid or refuse to change. Always be willing to re-examine your beliefs and learn from your own mistakes.

**DAILY PLANNER PAGE**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 a.m.							
8:00 a.m.							
9:00 a.m.							
10:00 a.m.							
11:00 a.m.							
12:00 p.m.							
1:00 p.m.							
2:00 p.m.							
3:00 p.m.							
4:00 p.m.							
5:00 p.m.							
6:00 p.m.							
7:00 p.m.							