Values Sort

Facilitation Guide

Tool for
Moral Character

🕐 **30 minutes**

👉 **Educator-prep**
K-12 educators

Materials

• The attached list of values
• A team of 3 people or more
• Pen and paper

About this Guide

Exploring our individual and collective values - what they are, what they mean to us, and how they might guide our decision-making, can also help us to recognize the spectrum of values that individuals hold and why each of us believe and respond to situations as we do. It also helps us to understand that humans can hold values that are different from each other and still be equally thoughtful and caring in the way they navigate decisions and take action. It's also important to understand why people hold different values. While they may seem to value the same thing, there are often various reasons or experiences that brought each individual to their value system.

Our values can affect every aspect of our lives. When we are true to our values we may feel more connected to our work and our relationships. If we are feeling uncomfortable with an interaction we've had, a choice we've made, or an action we've taken, it's possible that particular experience did not align with our values. Pausing and reflecting on a regular basis can help us to recognize and understand how our values are influencing our lives.

Here is a simple activity to begin to identify those values that are important to you and to your community.

Making Connections

Principled Innovation asks us to work with others and recognize the limits of our own knowledge so t hat we can better understand and tackle the complex issues our communities face.

Connecting Character Assets:

Perspective taking
Inclusivity

ASU **Mary Lou Fulton College for Teaching and Learning Innovation** | **Principled Innovation**®
Arizona State University

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Instructions

1 Review the attached list of values

You might want to cut them out to make it easier to move them around and group them together. Is there something that's important to you that is not on the list? Write it down.

2 Choose

Now, choose the top 15 values that resonate with you.

3 Group your values

Once you have identified your top 15 values, begin to group the values in a way that makes sense to you. Are there values that seem similar or relate to each other? Are you beginning to notice themes in what you have identified?

4 Pare them down

After reviewing the different groups, try to pare your values down to your top 10.

5 Identify your top 5

Now, let's go one step further and identify your top 5 values and put them in order of importance to you.

You might want to pause here to reflect about why you chose these top 5 values. Why are they important to you? Have they always been important to you? How do they show up in your personal life? In your professional life? How might you use these values to guide your decisions and your actions?

If you want to explore further:

Consider doing this activity with a partner or a team and engage in dialogue about your values. This is a great way to learn more about each other and to deepen your understanding of why the people in your life think, feel, and act the way they do. Here are a few discussion prompts and questions you might want to explore together:

- With a partner, share your top 2 values with each other and discuss your reasons for choosing them. Do you have values in common? Are your reasons for holding these common values similar, or do you have different reasons or experiences that formed your values?

- **With a partner or a small group, discuss how you model your values every day through your actions.** How are they modeled through your inactions? Do they show up in your personal style? In your movements? In the way you interact with others? In the way you present yourself in meetings or in the classroom? How might identifying and acknowledging each other's values help you to strengthen your relationships or work collaboratively with others?
- **During a team meeting, revisit your team or organization's mission and vision.** Then as a group start your conversation with questions such as:
  - "Are we creating an environment where it is safe for us to live our values?"
  - "How are our individual values guiding us to contribute to the mission of our team or organization?"
  - "How might we use our understanding of each other's values to better support each other as a team and to work towards our common goals?"

Values in Common exercise
Have students work in groups to create a Venn diagram
- Use Google Slides and show the overlap between two or three sets of cultural values which they feel are present in their educational environment.
- The cultural groups that hold these values in common might differ in the way they demonstrate or express them
- Select one of the values in this overlapping common area
- Imagine some ways that this shared value could be expressed in their educational environment.

List of Values

Acceptance	Competence	Family	Intelligence	Perfection	Service
Accountability	Consistency	Fierceness	Intuitiveness	Perseverance	Stillness
Adventure	Contentment	Flexibility	Joy	Persistence	Simplicity
Aesthetics	Cooperation	Focus	Justice	Philanthropy	Solidarity
Ambition	Courage	Freedom	Kindness	Playfulness	Spirituality
Appreciation	Creativity	Friendliness	Leadership	Power	Stability
Approachability	Curiosity	Generosity	Logic	Preparedness	Status
Assertiveness	Daring	Gratitude	Love	Professionalism	Strength
Attentiveness	Decisiveness	Happiness	Loyalty	Purpose	Success
Awareness	Dependability	Harmony	Mindfulness	Rationality	Support
Balance	Diligence	Honesty	Modesty	Reason	Teamwork
Beauty	Diversity	Humility	Motivation	Reflection	Thoroughness
Bravery	Empathy	Ingenuity	Neatness	Reliability	Trustworthiness
Brilliance	Endurance	Initiative	Open	Resilience	Truth
Calmness	Enjoyment	Imagination	Mindedness	Respect	Understanding
Carefulness	Enthusiasm	Ingenuity	Optimism	Responsibility	Uniqueness
Change	Equity	Initiative	Order	Responsiveness	Unity
Cheerfulness	Excellence	Innovation	Organization	Rigor	Vision
Clarity	Exploration	Inquisitiveness	Originality	Security	Warmth
Collaboration	Exuberance	Inspiration	Patience	Self-reliance	Wisdom
Compassion	Fairness	Integrity	Peace	Serenity	Wonder