

Courage

This is the second week of our Courage unit. Students will focus on courage and how it relates to the concept of being a hero.

Begin the unit with the whole class lesson and then aim to complete at least two of the mini lessons with your students throughout the week. Each mini lesson is designed to present elements of the main lesson in new and engaging ways.

Main Lesson

Whole Class Lesson
30 minutes



What Makes an Awesome Leader?

Students will explore the concept of leaders and discuss what makes an awesome leader. (See page 2 for lesson details)

Mini Lessons

For Small Groups
15 minutes



Leader Attributes

Divide the class into groups of 6-8. Each group will create a list of 5 common attributes of a kind, courageous leader. Share each list aloud and combine into a master list if time allows.

For Partners
15 minutes



Lead The Way

With your partner- take turns leading each other across the classroom blindfolded. It takes courage to both be a good leader AND to allow others to lead when you are not sure of where they are leading you!

For Individuals
15 minutes



I am a Leader!

What makes me a great leader? Examine yourself. Identify 3-5 personal characteristics that you possess that help you to lead others in a kind and courageous manner.

Technology-Focused
15 minutes



Leading With Technology

How does our dependence on technology stifle our ability to lead? Think back to a time in school when a lesson or assignment relied heavily on technology and used little, if any teacher to student interaction. How much of that lesson did you remember? How did you feel when you were led by a computer program versus your teacher? Schools are increasingly being pressured to use more and more technology. However, it's important to speak up about what you as a student might be missing as this technology continues to shape your education.

What Makes an Awesome Leader?

Students will explore the concept of leaders and discuss what makes an awesome leader.

Lesson Timeframe

30 minutes

Required Materials

- Index cards
- Pencils
- Projector or smartboard for video
- Internet connection-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgF1Enrgo2g>

Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, International Society for Technology in Education Standards, when applicable, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.

Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Examine the concept of a leader and how it applies to themselves and their abilities.
- Apply courageousness to a variety of situations in group and individual settings.

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

Take some time to reflect on your most courageous acts this year. Remember that courage includes kindness, vulnerability, leadership, and standing up for what you believe in. Was there something you fought for this year? Did you try a new teaching strategy that really worked? Did you try something that failed miserably that you had to own and learn from? What was something really kind you did for yourself this year? If you struggle to think of a courageous act, it isn't too late! Start today! Infuse courage into your next hour. Do something intentional and kind for yourself. Make a request of your principal for something you need next year. Bring up that strategy or idea or concern to your PLC group that you have been meaning to discuss all year. It isn't too late to be courageous; make today the day!



Share

3-5 minutes

Let's take some time to review the connection between courage and vulnerability. How does it take courage to be vulnerable? Invite student responses.



Inspire

3-5 minutes

Last week we reviewed the concept of courage and the idea that vulnerability plays into our ability to act courageous by staying true to yourself, regardless of what others are doing. This is a challenging task even for adults! This week we will apply both of these concepts as we explore leaders. We often think of leaders as adults or team captains. However, every person has the capacity to lead when given the right tools and opportunity!

How would you define the term leader? (Invite student responses.)

How do leaders use courage and vulnerability to help and empower others? (Invite student responses.)

Yes, there are some common ideas that come up when we explore leaders. These characteristics of strength, courage, bravery, and confidence are all common themes when we think of the leaders of our world and our media. However, we as leaders, must be open to being vulnerable as well. We must be willing to take risks, stand up for others, and work on ourselves. All of these actions take a combination of courage AND vulnerability. Being a leader doesn't mean you have it all figured out. Actually, good leaders realize quickly that they do not have it all figured out. They seek out others to help them move forward. They work together with their team to accomplish a goal. They are willing to take risks to help the group as a whole reach the goal at hand!



Empower

15 minutes

Explain that the class will now watch a short video to hear from other teens on what makes an awesome leader. Do you agree with them? How would you answer this question? You are the future leaders of our country and even our world. Your voice counts! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdL4o7wUOCQ>

Guide a class discussion around the question, "What Makes an Awesome Leader?" Make sure every student has a chance to answer this question. To avoid the common problem of the more extroverted and vocal students dominating the conversation, consider using a talking stick or randomly selecting students to share their answer before the outgoing students overshadow them.

Also, depending on your classroom makeup, consider pairing the students up and having each student share the answer to this question with their partner. It is then their partner's responsibility to share the answer with the class. Allow the conversation to flow after all of the answers have been shared.



Reflect

5-7 minutes

Using an index card, have each student answer the following question anonymously: "What is one thing you would like to accomplish if you were the President of The United States of America?" Read the answers aloud throughout the week to keep the momentum going!