

Agreements

Intended age group: Upper elementary through Adult

Time Needed: 5-7 minutes for adults; 20-30 minutes for children

Learning objectives: Participants will be able to identify and agree upon Pillar-based rules for everyone in the seminar/classroom to obey.

Materials needed: One sheet of chart paper, one marker

Overview:

Write the letters T R R F C C vertically down the side of a sheet of chart paper, to represent The Six Pillars of Character. Announce that the group will discuss behavior guidelines for each Pillar. Then, everyone will come to an agreement on the best rules for the class. The rules will be called “agreements.”

Have the group brainstorm two rules per Pillar that they can agree to follow during their time together. Write down the rules related to Trustworthiness next to the T on the chart paper, and then continue through the Pillars. When finished, ask if there are any rules by which they can’t abide. Reaching a consensus serves two purposes. First, consensual agreement increases ownership, so participants will be more likely to follow the rules than if they were merely imposed from above. Second, on the off-chance that someone is disruptive, you can remind them of the agreed-upon code of conduct.

Classroom application:

In a classroom setting, all students can sign the chart paper indicating their agreement with the rules. Or, have a contract of the agreements to sign and turn in. Parents could also sign off on it, if desired. Older students could write a narrative citing positive Six Pillar behaviors they want to see in the classroom from both students and teachers.

This activity was developed by the Institute for Character Development.