

Values-What's important?
6th Grade Advisement Activity
Estimated time: 30 Minutes

Georgia Teachers-As-Advisors Framework

Goal 6-2.2 - Recognize and attain performance levels necessary to reach educational and career goals.

- d. Describe the importance of and develop a plan to improve one's individual educational achievement
- e. Describe how personal attitudes and behaviors can impact educational achievement and future success.

Objectives:

- Students will learn the importance of knowing your values and their affect on the decision-making process

Materials:

- Two heavy textbooks

Activity:

1. *Brainstorm with students. Say:* Hello. Welcome to advisement. I hope your day is going well. Very often our behavior, what we say and do, is influenced by our "values." What is a value? (the ideas that we believe are important, the things that we rate highly are our values). Some people value:

helping others	having fun
being honest	good health
love of family	beauty
education	liberty
justice	money

Add some other values of your own here: hard work, peace, friends, respect, etc.

2. *Say:* Values play an important part in our lives. They help us decide what we expect of ourselves and of others. Our values help us to make decisions about our behavior and our future. I am going to read you a story then we will talk about the story. I am going to write the characters on the board.

Write the names of the characters on the board or on flip chart. Students will reveal many of their values by the way they react to the characters in the story.

Characters- Amanda, Amanda's Daddy, Mother Turtle, Baby Turtles

Read: Amanda was really excited. They had waited many days, but finally, that night, the baby turtles would hatch out on the beach. And her Daddy was going to take her to see them!

So, Amanda and her father got up when it was still dark, took their torches, and carefully made their way to the beach. Her father made her promise to respect the baby turtles, not to make any noise, and to do what he told her.

Well, Amanda was willing to do almost anything if it meant that she could go and see the turtles hatch. She didn't really know what it would be like, but her older brother had told her that the turtles are born on the beach just a few meters from the water's edge.

After hatching they quickly scuttle towards the sea. All that sounded very exciting to her.

Crouching quietly, by the light of only one of the torches on a low setting, Amanda and her Daddy waited. She looked all over, hoping to see Mother Turtle, and she almost missed the appearance of the first baby turtle.

It was so tiny!

It moved very clumsily, like most babies; and without waiting for either its brothers or sisters or mother, it started to scuttle towards the sea. Gradually, more and more baby turtles appeared, and all ran towards

the water. Amanda and her Daddy stayed hidden and quiet, watching the wonderful spectacle of that crazy race to the sea.

But then something happened which, to Amanda, seemed horrible. Some seagulls and other birds arrived, and they started eating some of the little turtles. She kept looking everywhere to see whether Daddy Turtle would turn up to give those birds a good hitting. But he never came.

Amanda was watching all this with tears in her eyes, and when the first group of baby turtles finally reached the water and were safe from the birds, she gave out a little cry of happiness.

Even with the birds eating quite a few little turtles, in the end many more reached the sea, and Amanda was very pleased that they had managed to do so.

On their way home, her father, who had noticed the tears in Amanda's eyes, explained to her that turtles were born that way. Mother Turtle lays many eggs, hides them in the sand, and off she goes. When the baby turtles hatch out, they have to try to reach the sea on their own. That's why so many are born, because lots of them get eaten by other animals, and not only on the sand, also in the water. He explained to her that the few turtles who manage to become adults live for many, many years.

Amanda was really glad to have learned so much about the turtles that night, but as they continued home all she could think of was how happy she was to have a family; happy that her parents and her brothers and sisters had helped her and cared for her so much right from the day she was born.

At the end of the story have a volunteer come to the front of the room and give them two textbooks, one for each hand and tell them to hold them out at arms length. While they are standing holding the textbook discuss with the class their reaction to the characters in the story focusing on the things they valued (family, learning, life, nature, truth.) The volunteer won't be able to hold the textbooks very long. Compare this to what happens to someone when they do something that goes against their beliefs or value system; we experience stress, frustration, perhaps guilt because we did something that we didn't think was right or waster valuable time on something that was really not important. Like the books, it will become an unbearable weight to keep holding on to. It is important that we take the time to learn about those things that are really important to us.

Complete the Following Activities if time permits:

1. Have a pretend check for \$1000.00 or a \$50 bill (*Draw one on the board or flip chart.*) Have the class list on the board the things they would do if they were handed a check. You can have a discussion or writing assignment but their answers will reflect their values. Point out to the class that what they spend their money on has everything to do with what they value.
2. Ask several students to tell some of the things they did during the past week. List them on the board. Point out that what you choose to do with your time also has everything to do with what you value; and, your values will directly influence your postsecondary and career choices.
3. *Dismiss:* Our values can have an impact on our future careers. Knowing the things that are important to us can help us make better decisions about our behavior as well as our future. See you next time. Practice identifying what's important to you in your life-- then apply those values to the work to have thought about doing. Have a great day!