
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT REPORT

IMPROVE RETENTION AND ADD VALUE TO YOUR PROGRAM

Questioning

Week 1

"Judge a man by his questions rather than by his answers."

Francois Voltaire, 18th-century French author

Translation for Adults

As an adult, you may think you should know all the answers and, if you ask questions, then you must be stupid. You can't live long enough to know everything about a particular subject or topic—no one ever has or will. Asking questions is one of the major methods of learning; life experience, formal education and self-education are the others. Questioning what you read, hear and see reveals much about your character. Someone who acts like he or she has all the answers is not as smart as someone who constantly asks question.

Translation for Kids

Have you ever been in martial arts class and not understood what the instructor was showing or telling you? That has happened to most of us, but it's okay not to understand. There's nothing wrong with asking questions when you don't understand. In fact, it's the right thing to do because asking questions is one of the best ways to learn. Asking questions shows your instructor that you are eager to learn and that you want to make sure that you understand his instruction. You will learn more from asking questions than by pretending to have all the answers.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. Have you ever had trouble understanding your schoolteacher or martial arts instructor?
2. What is one of the best ways to understand what he or her was trying to teach you?

Week 2

"He who asks a question is a fool for five minutes; he who does not ask a question remains a fool forever."

Chinese Proverb

Translation for Adults

It's better to admit that you do not know an answer and then ask the question than to never know the answer. It's that "five minutes" of being a fool that bothers most adults. You must develop the courage to disregard what others think because you know you are being wise asking a question, not a fool. Asking questions shows that you analyze information rather than just accept it. If you never asked questions, then you would never know the answers—and it's the answers that are the knowledge you need to grow and succeed.

Translation for Kids

You may be sometimes scared to ask questions in school or martial arts class. You may be afraid that the other students will think that you are stupid, and make fun of you. Remember, there are no stupid questions. Asking questions does not make you stupid. In fact, asking questions shows that you are smart. You don't just accept information, but you think about it, so you can really understand. If you never ask questions, then you will never know the answers. You need those answers to improve your grades and be a better martial artist and person.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. Have you ever been afraid to ask questions because others might think you were stupid?
2. How can asking questions help you learn?

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT REPORT

IMPROVE RETENTION AND ADD VALUE TO YOUR PROGRAM

Week 3

"Look at all the sentences which seem true and question them."

David Reisman, 20th-century American social scientist

Translation for Adults

For most people, the world was flat until Christopher Columbus took a boat trip. Although you will probably never be a famous geographic explorer, you can be an information explorer. It may seem easier to accept information as true rather than to question or examine it closely. Have the courage to question any information you don't understand before you accept it as truth. You will expand not only your knowledge, but also your analytical skills. Today's questioners will become tomorrow's discoverers.

Translation for Kids

It's okay to trust the adults in your life to tell you the truth. It's also okay to ask them questions. Asking adults to help you understand what they tell you doesn't mean that you think that they are wrong. Asking questions will help you understand the truth and difficult ideas better. When you ask questions, you are showing the adults in your life that you want to learn to think for yourself. Questioning is one of the best ways to learn.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. Did you ever question what an adult told you, instead of accepting it as true?
2. Did the answer help you to learn more or understand the truth better?

Week 4

"The important thing is not to stop questioning."

Albert Einstein, 20th-century German-Swiss-American mathematical physicist

Translation for Adults

Even if you've completed your formal education, you want to continue learning; in fact, life forces you to learn to survive, grow and succeed. Each new day brings new lessons, experiences or additional education, and these lessons should prompt you to ask new questions. These questions are essential to your intellectual and personal growth. Continue to question, even if you think that you know all there is to know, because you can always learn more. Continuous questioning will help you make crucial decisions throughout your life that can lead to great results.

Translation for Kids

When do you think you will stop learning? When you graduate from high school or college? When you start your career? When you raise a family? The truth is, you will never stop learning. You may not be sitting in a classroom with a teacher, but everyday events in your life can teach you some of the most valuable lessons. As you continue learning throughout life, it is equally important to continue to ask questions. The answers will add to your knowledge and your ability to succeed even though you may think you know everything you need to know. The answers will also help you develop the skills you need to make important life decisions.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. Do you think you will ever stop learning?
2. What is one thing you know that you did not learn in a classroom?