

Character Development

Pre Module Discussion

1. Read the following quote and in small groups, decide what it means. Then decide whether or not you agree with it.

“Our education system is absolutely inadequate – not relatively, [but] absolutely inadequate – for the purposes of democracy.”

Mortimer Adler

2. What do you think should be taught in our schools today? Brainstorm with your group. Divide your ideas into categories. Then, compare your list of ideas with other groups. Are there any similarities? Any differences?

3. What are morals? Should moral education be part of the school curriculum? Discuss with your group.

4a. Look at the table of values. Can you add any to the list? In your group, decide which of these values should be included in the school curriculum and on their order of importance. Try to reach an agreement.

Yes/No (Order of importance)	Value	How could these values be taught
	Responsibility	
	Cooperation	
	Individualism	
	Hard work	
	Appreciation for family	
	Spirituality	
	Respect for others	
	Respect for property	
	Respect for authority	
	Respect for self	

b. Discuss how the values that you considered most important should be taught in the classroom.

Vocabulary

All the words in the box below come from the two readings in this module, Japan Rethinks its Approach to Moral Education, and Great Expectations, and the lecture, Character Education. Match the words with their meanings.

Word	Meaning
1. divergent	a) mentioning something or someone as an example in order to support or explain an action or statement
2. resolution	b) the act of making someone believe in, accept or agree with something
3. restoration	c) the act of coming out or appearing
4. consensus	d) to move or cause to move faster
5. indoctrination	e) people with a direct interest or involvement in something
6. stakeholders	f) admit that something exists or is true
7. parable	g) complete change, improvement
8. instil	h) a short story that makes a moral or religious point
9. surge	i) becoming greater, more intense, or more serious
10. profound	j) bringing back or returning something that was lost or removed
11. enlisted	k) the movement of power to a less central location
12. prompted	l) the process of resolving or working out something
13. deflects	m) brought about
14. citing	n) general agreement
15. cultivating	o) make someone think about or feel a particular feeling or idea
16. acknowledge	p) struggle with or deal with something
17. transformation	q) differing
18. decentralisation	r) to be healthy and grow or develop well
19. emergence	s) improve or develop something
20. accelerate	t) increase strongly or suddenly
21. flourish	u) control or cause to happen
22. fledgling	v) very great, strong, intense, deep
23. dictate	w) something that remains from the past
24. legacy	x) directs attention away from a particular subject or issue
25. escalating	y) new, young or inexperienced
26. contend	z) gained someone's cooperation or support