
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT REPORT

IMPROVE RETENTION AND ADD VALUE TO YOUR PROGRAM

Responsibility

Week 1

"It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do."
John Baptiste Molière, 17th century French playwright

Translation for Adults

You have obligations—to your family, your friends and your co-workers—much the same as anyone. You are responsible for many tasks and responsibilities in different roles and environments. Uncompleted tasks are also your responsibility. A work assignment is a responsibility, and when you complete it, you have fulfilled your responsibility; however, if it is late, then you really didn't fulfill your obligation, and you'll have to answer to the boss. If you forget to thank your spouse for a kind deed, then it is your responsibility, if he or she feels you are ungrateful. Tasks and responsibilities are often more than just what is obvious. It may be difficult, but remember, you are also responsible for the consequences of your actions, not just the actions.

Translation for Kids

You have many responsibilities. You must finish your homework on time. You must listen to your teachers and study hard in school. You listen to your parents. You must do your chores each week. As a future Black Belt, you must practice kicks and punches. You must also demonstrate confidence and focus. Being responsible is a great feeling! Others will trust and rely on you. You are also responsible for what you do not do. Don't do your homework and you may have to stay after school. Don't do your chores and you may have to sit in your room. Don't help a friend being bullied and you may lose him as a friend. Be a responsible martial artist. Before you act, remind yourself you are also responsible for what you don't do.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. Do your parents think you are responsible? Why?
2. What are two chores at home that are your responsibility?

Week 2

"Ninety-nine percent of all failures come from people who have a habit of making excuses."
George Washington Carver, American botanist and scientist

Translation for Adults

Successful people share many common traits. They are confident. They are skilled leaders. They also take responsibility for their actions—without making excuses. There may be reasons why their actions are unsuccessful, but they don't excuse their failures or "pass the buck." They know the "buck" stops with them. You must also be willing to have the "buck" stop with you, when you are responsible. Though it may be initially challenging, taking responsibility for your actions always pays in the end. Once you accept the consequences of your actions, you can fix them. Every excuse just takes you further from a solution. Every time you accept responsibility for a mistake or unsuccessful consequences, you are one step closer to experiencing Black Belt excellence.

Translation for Kids

You and everyone make mistakes. Making a mistake is a lesson to be learned. You must learn to be responsible for your actions and mistakes. It is easy to make an excuse. You received a bad grade on a test, so you blame your teacher. You don't win first place at a tournament, so the judges hate you. You'll never succeed or become

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better, if you blame others. When you are responsible, you can be a better student and martial artist. Did you receive a bad grade in school? Study harder next time. Didn't win first place at the tournament? Practice more and ask for help. When you take responsibility, you are starting to have a Black Belt attitude.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. How did taking responsibility for an action help you become a better person?
2. Has one of your friends been responsible? Could you be responsible like him or her?

Week 3

"Responsibilities gravitate to the person who can shoulder them."

Tom Stoppard, British dramatist

Translation for Adults

The idea of "being responsible" or "accepting responsibility" often has a negative connotation. In reality, it is quite the opposite. To achieve great success, you must be willing to take on great responsibility. Arguably, one of the most rewarding experiences is parenthood. By no means is that an easy task! It requires a tremendous amount of work and dedication. It is also tremendously gratifying. Ask any parent, and they will certainly agree that it is an amazing experience—and responsibility. Many of your greatest opportunities will also be your greatest challenges. You must be willing to step forward, and accept them!

Translation for Kids

Some people don't want to be responsible. They think it is too much work. They think life is easier without responsibilities. They are wrong. You want to be a great person. You want to be a Black Belt. You must be responsible. Come to class every week. Practice every day. Study and do your homework on time. You will be a great student, too. The most successful people in the

world are responsible. They want the hard work. They want to test their self-discipline. That is why they succeed. Don't avoid your responsibilities. Step forward, and meet them head-on.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. What are your responsibilities to be a great student?
2. What are your responsibilities to be a great Black Belt?

Week 4

"Responsibility's like a string we can only see the middle of. Both ends are out of sight."

William McFee, writer of sea stories

Translation for Adults

The two ends of responsibility that can't be seen are really two choices: Deny responsibility and regress, or accept responsibility and grow to your full potential. As with any decision, though, you will not see the results of your choice until time has passed. It may be easy not to accept your faults and mistakes today. After a month or two, or a year, however, the ramifications could be great. Your results and reward could also be great, if you accept responsibility, whether you admit a mistake or work harder.

Translation for Kids

You have two choices for every responsibility in your life. Don't be responsible. Blame others. Never become the great person you want to be. The second choice is to accept responsibility. Do the hard work. Become the best person you can be. You may not know the results of your choice until later. You can blame your brother or sister for breaking a lamp, so you're not blamed. Remember, they may not want to help you later, when you need help, because you blamed them.

Try always to make the right choice. You may be in trouble, but always accept responsibility for your actions. Your honesty and willingness to

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grow and become a better person will always be your reward.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. What are the positive results of taking responsibility?
2. What can you learn from a famous person who took responsibility for his or her actions? Name a famous person and how they were responsible.