
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT REPORT

IMPROVE RETENTION AND ADD VALUE TO YOUR PROGRAM

Wisdom

Week 1

"I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday."

Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States

Translation for Adults

To acquire wisdom requires constant learning and the pursuit of knowledge. Knowledge can be achieved in many ways, but one of the best is your experience. To paraphrase the old saying, "If you fail to learn from past mistakes, then you will certainly repeat them." Your past experiences contain a stockpile of wisdom that will be very useful in the future. It may be painful to recall the past, especially if you've made mistakes, but it is also the only way to grow. Review your past actions and experiences during the next week and take a "wisdom" inventory of what you can learn and how that knowledge will help you grow and succeed.

Translation for Kids

Wisdom is more than just "smarts." It is your effort to learn new ideas everyday. You can learn in school. You can learn from TV programs. You can also learn from your past. The life you've experienced and the actions you've taken will teach you much. If you've made mistakes in the past, then you can learn to avoid making the same mistakes again. That is real wisdom! If you do the opposite of your past mistakes, then you've learned to make the right decisions. Review your past choices before you make a new decision. You'll be more in control of our future. Grow with wisdom and you will succeed.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. Have you learned from your past actions, especially mistakes? Did it help you to make a better decision today?
2. What does wisdom mean to you?

Week 2

"Knowledge is the process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification."

Martin Fischer

Translation for Adults

It's one thing to acquire much knowledge and information. It's another thing to use that knowledge and information effectively. You absorb knowledge, regularly, from books, magazines, newspapers, television, the Internet, your interactions with others and throughout the course of everyday life. Wisdom is knowing how to use what you've learned. It's the ability to apply all you've learned to your life. It is a never-ending process of sifting through all that information and knowledge, discarding what is worthless and finding what is really useful. During the next couple of days, start to analyze the recent knowledge and information you've acquired to find those gems of wisdom that can make your life better.

Translation for Kids

You will acquire more knowledge and information, as you grow older and continue your education. You will learn facts and ideas in your language, math, history and science classes. Someday, you may attend college and learn even more knowledge. The benefit of wisdom is using that knowledge, wisely. Review everything you learn to learn how to use it. Someday, you may have to defend yourself. You would not have time to use every self-defense technique you've learned. You must learn how to pick the exact knowledge you need to defend yourself, quickly. Wisdom is also separating your knowledge into usable pieces. You can then apply those pieces to specific situations. You'll make the right decisions. You'll do the right thing. You will be wise!

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Class Discussion for Kids

1. What specific knowledge have you learned in academic school that helps you in everyday life?
2. What have you learned as a martial artist that helps you in everyday life?

Week 3

"Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure. We get very little wisdom from success, you know."

William Saroyan, American playwright and novelist

Translation for Adults

The greatest lessons in life are the results of your disappointments. Once you begin to learn from those disappointments, you are gaining wisdom. If you want to be considered wise, then you will learn not only from your mistakes, but also the mistakes of others. Today's failure may very well lead to tomorrow's victory, if you recognize those failures and take a positive attitude to learn from them. Don't dwell on past mistakes, failures and disappointments because you can't change them. What you can change is you and your future. Use your energies to make today and tomorrow better because you're wiser today.

Translation for Kids

Life is often filled with disappointments. Life doesn't always treat you right. You may feel bad or that you are a failure. Don't be upset or negative. Forget what went wrong because you can't change it. You can learn how to be right the next time. You practiced real hard for a big game or a school test. Maybe you didn't do well. Your mistakes or failure can teach you to practice differently or work harder for the next test. Failing to pass a stripe or belt test could teach you to come to class more often. There is always

a good lesson to learn from every situation. Great Black Belts with the right attitude always try to learn those lessons.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. Think of a mistake you made in the past. How did that mistake teach you a valuable lesson?
2. Is it possible to learn from other people's mistakes? Think of someone's mistake. What can you learn from his or her mistake?

Week 4

"The doors of wisdom are never shut."

Benjamin Franklin, inventor, author, diplomat and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America

Translation for Adults

The pursuit of wisdom is a continual process; it does not stop at a certain age because there is always more to learn. The greatest martial artists will tell you that the longer they train, the more they must learn and master. Life is very much the same. Do not be close-minded! Close the doors of wisdom and you'll deny yourself all the opportunities that life has to offer. Remember, you can learn from anyone: a young child, a bothersome co-worker, an unfriendly neighbor and the villain in a story. Keep your eyes and mind open, so you take advantage of every opportunity to obtain more wisdom. You'll never have enough!

Translation for Kids

You must learn everyday of your life. There is always more knowledge. There is always more wisdom that will help you grow and realize your dreams. Don't assume you know everything about a topic in school just because you've heard the teacher present that topic before. Listen to your younger brother or sister when they want to explain what they've learned in school. You already passed that grade, but that doesn't

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mean you learned everything. If you're wise, then you'll learn from what your brother or sister is saying. You must also have the right attitude to become wiser. When you close your mind, you stop growing. Just because you're older and earn excellent grades in school, doesn't mean you can stop learning. Knowledge is all around you. Look for it and learn from it whenever possible.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. What have you learned from another person, even though you thought they had nothing to teach you?
2. Why is it important always to continue learning?