

Letters of Recognition - Humility

EXPLANATION:

Perhaps the best way to teach the virtue of humility is to foster in our children a deep sense of gratitude. A sense of gratitude for even the little things can be expressed through thank you letters.

YEAR LEVELS: Years 4–6

STUDENT GROUPING: Group discussion and individual letter writing

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 40–60 mins approx.

LINK TO CURRICULUM:

English: Sequence of content F–6

Strand: Language

- Language variation and change — How English varies according to context and purpose, including cultural and historical context.

See also Personal and Social Capability learning continuum sub elements

- Communicate effectively
- Understand themselves as learners
- Work collaboratively
- Contribute to civil society.

SCOPE OF TASK:

Humility is the quality of being humble and requires the consideration other's needs, actions and perspectives. Expressing gratitude to others will require acknowledging others and the contributions they make to our lives.

1. Question students to determine their prior knowledge and experience of humility and being humble. Connecting humility to the following concepts might assist:
 - Not drawing attention to yourself
 - Acknowledging that you are not always right
 - Considering the needs of a team instead of the individual player
 - Acknowledging others' talents and actions.

2. Ask students to consider people who contribute to their lives and do things for them selflessly. Students can share experiences with the group. Some examples may be: parents, coaches, friends, people in the school community. Encourage students to align actions with the people they are discussing. Questions could include:
 - Is this person humble?
 - Why do you think they are humble?
3. Share the task with the students:
 - Students are going to express their gratitude to people and write letters to these people.
 - Choose people who may not get the recognition they deserve — for example, firefighters, police officers and nurses.
4. Depending on students' prior knowledge provide the necessary details about letter writing and appropriate structures.
5. Encourage students to create the greeting, a statement of gratitude, specific details of the person's actions and humility and an appropriate closing and signature. The teacher can model a letter writing example as needed or provide a template.
6. Once students have completed the letters ask students to share with the class. When discussing the letters of thanks highlight the humility that the letter recipients displayed.
7. Ask the students to give the letters to the person.
8. In the days after the activity ask the students how the letter recipients felt about being acknowledged:
 - What did they say?
 - How did they feel?
 - How did you feel?



RESOURCES:

- Pens
- Paper.