

Dear
YOUNG AMERICAN
Make a Different Decision

Students will:

- analyze the decision-making process, and explain how integrity helps to guide better decision-making
- evaluate how to utilize decision-making skills to determine what is important in their lives

Core Value Focus: Integrity**Introductory Activity:**

Have students share an update on their community service project from the last lesson. Ask students to actively think about any of the other core values besides citizenship they used in order to better their community. You may share, as an adult, ways that you help address community issues.

Explain to students that you will be discussing integrity today. Lead a short discussion with students to review the term integrity. They may recall Gary Littrell's advice or any other Recipient's advice from a previous lesson. Challenge students to share how they have demonstrated and developed integrity in their decision-making since the first lesson.

Whole Group Activity:

Watch the Dear Young American video *Make a Different Decision*, featuring Medal of Honor Recipient Robert Modrzejewski. Ask students to make notes of observations or any advice that he offers.

Individual Activity:

Following the video, have each student write a short response to one or several of the following prompts.

- Modrzejewski offers advice to “get as much education as you possibly can. The more education that you have, the greater options that you have later in life.” Explain how education (technical school, job training, reading or researching, college, etc.) leads to better decision-making. What options does education provide for you later in life?
- Modrzejewski speaks about some of his own failures and offers advice to others. Regarding decisions, he states that “sometimes you have to make a different decision from the one you originally made.” Think of a decision that you have made that you later realized was the wrong decision. Did you change your decision? Why can it be difficult to admit that you made the wrong decision? What are some of the challenges that arise when you change your decision?
- Modrzejewski noted, “Every day is going to have its test.” How can possessing integrity help you to accept the challenge of each day's test? Can you think of how you have been tested today? How can you decide to respond to the challenge you have faced today?

Whole Group Activity:

Have students share their responses. Ask students what examples of integrity and other values they noted in the video.

For Next Time: Ask students to demonstrate what they learned from the lesson

Robert Modrzejewski advised us to “Try to do the right thing whenever possible.” In between now and the next lesson, pay attention to a decision made by a character you are familiar with—from a movie, a tv show, or a book you are reading. Analyze their decision(s). Did they make the right decision? Did they have to reverse their original decision? How did integrity play a role in their final decision/action? Were there consequences?