

Dear YOUNG AMERICAN

Your Name Is the Most Precious Possession You Have

Students will:

- describe how integrity, sacrifice, courage, and commitment are a basis for patriotism
- analyze how appreciation for the United States leads to improving our nation

Core Value Focus: Patriotism

Introductory Activity:

Referring to the last lesson, ask students to share their observations from a character or individual who demonstrated integrity in decision-making. You may share an observation that you noticed as an adult.

Explain to students that you will be discussing patriotism today. Lead a short discussion with students about the term patriotism. In discussion, emphasize the difference between patriotism and nationalism.

Whole Group Activity:

Watch the Dear Young American video *Your Name is the Most Precious Possession You Have*, featuring Medal of Honor Recipient Woody Williams. 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.

- Woody Williams states that we must “maintain our character. We have to do things to demonstrate that our character is important to us, and one of the most important facets of our life.” How can you better demonstrate that your character is important to you?
- Woody Williams states, “circumstances change your life. All of us have circumstances that happen in our lives that we have absolutely, at the moment, no control of. It’s what we do as a result of that circumstance that is the most important thing.” What circumstances do you face over which you have no control? How do you plan on using your circumstances to make better decisions? When you are older, how do you think you will reflect on these circumstances?
- Woody Williams made a powerful observation: “In just a few years, this country is going to be in your charge. The future is going to be in your hands.” What are some actions that you can take today to help shape the future of our nation?

Whole Group Activity:

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

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

Woody Williams stated that your name is the “most precious possession you have.” He also advised us to “...be appreciative of who we are, what we have, and what others have done to give us what we have today in America.” For next time, reflect upon your name. Research what your name means. Is there any history behind it? As you research the meaning(s) behind your name, reflect upon what you want people (family, friends, etc.) to think when they hear your name.