

Dear YOUNG AMERICAN

Look to Your Left and to Your Right

Students will:

- analyze how working to improve every day reflects values that will help others also improve
- explain how to utilize the six core values daily to improve themselves, their community, and their nation

Introductory Activity:

Have students share how they stepped out of their comfort zones from the last lesson. Ask students to reflect on how they felt before and how they feel now. Ask how they can continue to stretch their comfort zones in the future.

Explain to students that this lesson will pull together all six of the Medal of Honor values.

Whole Group Activity:

Watch the Dear Young American video *Look to Your Left and to Your Right*, featuring Medal of Honor Recipient Leroy Petry. Ask students to make notes of observations or any advice that he offers.

Individual Activity:

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

- In offering his advice, Leroy Petry admits that “I was that person struggling at a point in my life. If it wasn’t for others around me, I may have never gotten out.” How does this quote explain Leroy Petry’s perspective on life? What can you do to make sure that others know they can depend on you when they need help? What can you do if you are the one who needs help?
- When reflecting on his life experience so far, Leroy Petry says, “I wake up in the morning, and I know I’m blessed with the opportunity to better myself and others around me every single day.” What value does this quote represent to you? How can you better those around you in your daily life?
- Leroy Petry offers meaningful life advice when he states, “Every day you think you’re having a hard time, look to your left and to your right. There’s going to be somebody that’s having it harder than you are.” Paying attention to those around you and their struggles can help you feel less alone and can also help you identify ways to help others. Think of someone you know who might be struggling with something, and list ways you could help ease their difficulties.

Whole Group Activity:

Have students share their responses. Ask what core values they saw represented in Leroy Petry’s advice.

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

You have experienced the stories of ten of the most courageous and committed individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Each of these men provided invaluable advice for some of life’s most difficult challenges. Armed with their advice, think about the six core values each of these stories exemplified. Of the six core values, which one do you believe is your strength? In which value do you believe you need more growth? Share your responses with the class. Remember the advice given by Leroy Petry: “Take advantage of your time and make it count.”