

The Importance of a Role Model

Find out what a role model really is and how you can find a positive role model for yourself.

Section A: What Is a Role Model?

A role model or mentor is a person who demonstrates a particular behavior, skill, or social role for another person to emulate. Role models might emerge because of character and conduct or because of particular skills and talents.

Task # 1:

Click on each of the Black leader examples provided and record who they looked up to as role models. Write down at least one trait the role model demonstrated.

Enter Response here:

Section B: Does a Role Model Have to be Famous?

No. Many people respect famous people because they are often skilled in a particular area such as music or sports or because they have money or power. Some famous people try to be strong role models who others can look up to and emulate. However, there are definitely some famous people with skills you respect that would be bad role models because they have gotten in trouble with drugs or the law.

Task #2:

Write down the names of three famous people that have a skill you respect but would not be a good role model for you.

Enter Response here:

Section C: Can a Role Model be a Member of my Family?

Yes. Often people select a member of their family to serve as a role model. Even if your goals differ from your family members there may be attributes of your parents, aunts and uncles, grandparents, and siblings that you respect and admire. However, not everyone has a family member that would be a suitable role model in every way. It is o.k. to select a role model that is not a family member.

Task #3:

Each of the Black leaders featured in the clips provided respects certain qualities of a family member. Watch each video and then write down the people these leaders learned from and the qualities they demonstrated.

Enter Response here:

Section D: Where Else can I Look for a Positive Role Model?

Positive role models can be found all around us. Think about people you look up to from school, or religious functions, or from your neighborhood that have admirable qualities. You don't have to like everything about them, but you can still respect them for being hardworking, knowledgeable, courageous, determined, or moral – or having another attribute you value.

Task #4:

Each of the Black leaders featured in the video clips provided respects certain qualities of a community member. Watch four of the five video clips and then write down who these leaders learned from and the qualities each demonstrated.

Enter Response here:

Section E: Do you have a Role Model in your own Life?

Task #5:

Think of at least 4 people that have a skill or attribute that you respect.

Enter Response here:

Discussion Question:



Write down your personal role model and at least three traits this person demonstrates that you respect. Your role model could be a parent, teacher, religious leader, national figure, musician, sports star, or anyone else you respect and look up to. (If you do not have a role model describe the type of person you would select as a role model.) Why have you selected this person? Be prepared to discuss the importance of this individual on your life in the group discussion.

Enter Response here:
