

# **RESPONSIBILITY**

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name:	Lee Weldon
Presentation Grade:	Kindergarten
Topic	TV Is A Time Waster!
Pillar:	Responsibility

### DETAILS:

Talk to the children about interesting ways to spend their free time that don't involve watching television. Start by asking the children about their favorite shows – which they are quick to supply! Then ask how many times they see their favorite characters sitting in a chair watching TV. (Almost never!) They talk about what the favorite characters do rather than watch TV and this leads to a discussion of all the things children can do that are fun and useful – and that don't involve a remote control!

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name(s): Fran and Tom White

Presentation Grade: 1<sup>st</sup>

Topic: Never Give Up - The Real Meaning of Perseverance

Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

A poster entitled, "Never Give Up" was displayed and the class was asked to read it while reminding them this was an important phrase. We told the class they would learn a new word, Perseverance, which really means never give up. And today we would tell them a story about someone whose life was a model of perseverance. Rather than read the story from a book in front of the class we changed the format and told the story from memory after positioning a chair in the middle of the class for everyone to gather around. We began by asking the question, "Has anyone ever heard of Wilma Rudolph? Let's find out what made her special."

We told the story of Wilma Rudolph who overcame the crippling childhood disease of polio to become a high school and college basketball star and then an Olympic Gold medal winner in track and field. The phrase, "never give up" was introduced several times during the story by displaying the poster and having the children read it to fortify Wilma's determination to overcome the odds. Some simple props were used such as a picture of Wilma wearing the steel brace, a sample Olympic Gold Medal, and the baton used in the relay race.

The story concluded with Wilma's accomplishments in the Olympics and reminding them that with hard work they could be anything, they could do anything. Nothing was beyond achievement. As they remembered the life of Wilma Rudolph they were asked to remember the phrase, "Never Give Up." The poster with the words "Never Give Up" was displayed and the children were asked to repeat the phrase several times, each time louder.

As we finished the story, one child asked in front of the entire class, "Is that story true?" So much for the pillar of Trustworthiness!

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Vin Brown

Presentation Grade: 1<sup>st</sup>

Topic: General

Pillar: ALL

### DETAILS

Each week before I leave I ask the class to stand and lift their thumb in the air as we say together:

***“WHEN I CHOOSE TO DO THE RIGHT THING, I AM A WINNER!”***

They point to themselves with their thumbs as they say, “when I choose.” As I get ready to leave they automatically get up to remind me to do this with them.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Vin Brown

Presentation Grade: 1<sup>st</sup>

Topic: General

Pillar: ALL

### DETAILS:

I made up a song to the tune of Zippity Doo Dah. I sing it with the kids five to six times a year. They love it and ask me all the time to sing it.

Zippity Doo Dah, Zippity Ay;  
My Oh My, I'm a Winner today.  
Plenty of good things heading my way,  
Zippity Doo Dah, Zippity Ay.

Good character makes you a winner;  
Keep your head up,  
You won't fall,  
Do what's right and you'll stand tall.  
Zippity Doo Dah, Zippity Ay;  
It feels so good to be a winner today.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Ed Steward

Presentation Grade: 1<sup>st</sup>

Topic:

Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

Ed brings his faithful dog, Paco, a springer spaniel, to teach his first grades about Responsibility. The children get to discuss the importance of taking care of a pet, and how that translates to taking care of each other. Ed demonstrates that without his help Paco would have a hard time getting along by himself.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Christine Grupenhoff

Presentation Grade: 2nd

Topic: Pillar Review

Pillar: All

### DETAILS:

I used this as a review for the entire year. The children used the code at the top to solve for the words. See attached work sheet.

<INSERT CODE WORK SHEET>

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Jen Thomas  
Presentation Grade: 2nd  
Topic: Slip, Slop, Slap, Wrap  
Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

*(This idea was adapted from the American Cancer Society and the EPA Sunwise Kit.)*

Being responsible means taking measures to protect yourself from the harmful rays of the sun.

Demonstrate “Slip, Slop, Slap, Wrap” Slip on a T-shirt, Slop on sunscreen, Slap on a hat, Wrap on sunglasses. Bring these items to class and demonstrate each. It is sure to bring a laugh!

Have the students chant “Slip, Slop, Slap, Wrap” over and over, faster and faster. Next, have the students sit or stand in a circle. Play upbeat music – a song with a sunshine theme is good.

Pass a ball around – it should represent the sun – and play “hot potato”. The person holding the sun (ball) should name one of the four ways taught earlier to protect themselves.

Wrap up with a quick review and answer questions.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Christine Grupenhoff

Presentation Grade: 2nd

Topic: Pillar Review

Pillar: All

### DETAILS:

Find the Six Pillars of Character. I used this as a review for the entire year. See attached work sheet.

<INSERT FIND 6 PILLARS WORKSHEET>

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Michael Clark and Members of the Community  
Partnerships for Children

Presentation Grade: 3rd

Topic: No Excuses

Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

- I. Introduce topic of the day.
- II. Give children a piece of paper
  - a. Ask them to write something that they think they can't do but would like to do.
- III. Have them stand up and read their "Can't" statement and tell them to toss it in the trash. Ask them to take a shot at the trashcan.
- IV. Tell them that we don't want any excuses. If you want to do it you should work hard to make it happen. No Excuses!
- V. Hand out another piece of paper on very nice stationary or in the form of a certificate.
- VI. Have them write on the certificate what they can or will do if they take responsibility for it and don't make any excuses.
- VII. Ask them to read their certificates.

### **Background from Manual:**

#### NO EXCUSES

Put "can't" in the trashcan. Stress the negative connotation of "can't". Even if you might fail still give it a "try." **Winners** think positively and try without making excuses. Losers think negatively and tend to say, "I can't." Michael Jordan believes every shot is going in the basket. We should think positive thoughts and try.

<INSERT: “WHAT I CAN’T DO BUT WOULD LIKE TO  
BE ABLE TO DO: W/FROWNIE FACES>

<INSERT: SAMPLE CERTIFICATE “IN  
RECOGNITION OF>

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Ross and Diana Harmon

Presentation Grade: 3rd

Topic: Taking Care of a Pet

Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

Some children did not have any pets so we bought “pet rocks” for them to care for. Each week they were to bring their rocks to class and share what responsibilities they had for their “pets”. They had to make sure they did not break them, that they did not leave them in their clothes, to be washed, misplace the, or forget them. We feel it gave them a great deal of responsibility and they seemed excited about their “pets.”

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Susan Clifford  
Presentation Grade: 3rd  
Topic: When In Doubt, Write It Out!  
Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

I took in a stuffed dog with a lead around his neck and introduced him as my dog Spot. I said that if I gave them a job of taking care of Spot while I go away for a few days what would their responsibilities be.

We made a list so they could check each thing off as they did it while I was gone. We talked about how important it is to write down responsibilities to make sure that they get carried out and nothing is forgotten.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: --

Presentation Grade: All Grades

Topic: Choices, Choices – Make the Right One!

Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

- I. Introduce Topic
- II. Play the Finger of Blame
  - A. Get volunteers to be in the play
  - B. Pose Question for Others
    1. What were the wrong choices that were made
    2. What would have been some correct choices
  - C. Pass out scripts to entire class and ask them to read along
  - D. Do Play
  - E. Applause
  - F. Review Questions
- III. What are some other choices that you must make
  - A. Doing Homework
  - B. Following the teachers directions
  - C. Following a friend who wants you to do something bad
- IV. Thank the class for an excellent job (if it was in fact good)

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: --

Presentation Grade: All Grades

Topic: Think Before You Speak

Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

- I. Introduce topic of the day
- II. Ask question: What does it mean to “Think Before Your Speak”
- III.** Why is this topic part of responsibility?
- IV. Change the topic to communication
  - A. When we communicate which sense do we use the most?
  - B. Listening
  - C. The most important part of communicating is listening
- V. Listening Exercise
  - A. Sit facing them
  - B. Open posture
  - C. Lean forward
  - D. Eye contact
  - E. Reflect what they are saying
- VI. Get some volunteers and ask them to make conversation.
- VII. Responsible to really listen to someone and try to understand what they are saying before you speak.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Susan Clifford  
Presentation Grade: 3rd  
Topic: Wheel of Fortune  
Pillar: All

### DETAILS:

Practice gold balls are inexpensive and work well as alternatives to ping pong balls. With permanent marker, write on each ball so you have as many balls as kids in your class. Put the balls in a plastic painter's bucket – again cheap!

Draw a blank for each letter of our slogan on the board. It's a good idea to have the slogan in your hand so you can see how many of each letter. Give each student a number – it's their responsibility to remember the number and to pay attention!

Take turns pulling numbers out of the bucket – get the teacher to do that. The student with the number gives a letter, and you, Vanna, fill in the blanks. The first one to guess the slogan gets a prize.

I used part of a slogan and also gave a prize to the one who could finish it off.

For example: The Buck Stops Here!  
What's right is right even if no one else is doing it!  
**What's wrong is wrong even if everyone else is doing it!**

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Chuck Gerhardt  
Presentation Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6th  
Topic: How to be Responsible  
Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

There are several definitions of **responsible**: “involving personal accountability or ability to act without guidance or superior authority;” “capable of making moral or rational decisions on one’s own;” “able to be trusted or depended upon;” “based upon or characterized by good judgment or sound thinking.”

I present these definitions to the class and emphasize words and ideas like personal accountability, act without guidance, making moral decisions on one’s own, trust, good judgment.

I then hand out worksheets (example attached) to each table of children and ask them to act as a team to list examples of how they may have behaved responsibly following the guideline listed on each sheet. The guidelines included:

When in doubt, use common sense!  
Choose your friends carefully!  
Always do your best!  
Keep on Trying! No excuses.  
Choices, choices – make the right ones!  
Do what you are supposed to do!  
Oh, how I wish I hadn’t....!

I walk around the room helping as needed and after about five minutes ask each team recorder to read their list.

This presentation worked fairly well but required a lot of interpretation and restating of how responsible behaviors followed the guidelines. I concluded the presentation by saying that there is a lot of simple advice to guide people in acting responsibly. However, it is their own good judgment that must lead them.

(See form below)

# **BE RESPONSIBLE**

**Oh – how I wish I hadn't...!**

Hints: Think before you speak; think before you act.

EXAMPLES:

1.

2.

3.

4.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Chuck Gerhardt  
Presentation Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6th  
Topic: Responsibilities of People We Know  
Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

I remind the class that last week we talked about personal responsibilities and responsibilities that companies have. Then I state that today we are going to talk about personal responsibilities of other people that we know.

I hand out sheets of paper titled: "List some responsibilities of a . . ." with room for the children to fill in their ideas (see example attached). Each table gets a sheet with a different category, including carpenter, fireman, teacher, student, soldier, business owner, police officer, parent.

I ask the children at each table to work as a team with one person acting as team recorder. I walk around the room helping as needed. After about five minutes I ask each team recorder in turn to read the responsibilities they listed for their assigned category.

This presentation worked very well for both sixth and third graders. Of course, the sixth graders had more accurate and meaningful lists but the teamwork at both grade levels is good and is fun. I conclude the presentation by saying that everyone has responsibilities.

## **List some responsibilities of a teacher**

1.

2.

3.

4.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Jackie Carter  
Presentation Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Topic: Building Character and Responsibility  
Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

For 4<sup>th</sup> graders, show the proclamation.

For both grades ask, “What is the meaning of Responsibility?”

Pass out “Building Our Own Character Muscles” Quiz (see attached). After completing the quiz pass out “What Quiz Tells You” (see attached). Discuss. Then hand out “Building Character Muscles Calendar” (see attached). Tell kids that this is for them to work on the character trait revealed by the quiz that needs some work. This will help them to chart their progress.

For 4<sup>th</sup> graders, hand out eggs that have yolk blown from them. Tell them that they can decorate their “responsibility”. The egg goes with them to school, sports, and outings. On (a specific date) we will see who still has an egg and will discuss the pros and cons of caring responsibility for the egg.

<INSERT MY CHARACTER MUSCLES>

<INSERT WHAT THE QUIZZES TELL YOU>

<INSERT BUILDING MY CHARACTER MUSCLES>

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Jackie Carter  
Presentation Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th  
Topic: Accountability  
Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

“The Finger of Blame Play” (see attached). Choose players/give out props. Players – dog mask/nose, three boys’ baseball caps, one girl party attire, one mom apron. Props – fake cake, baseball bat and glove.

Write questions for thinking about during the play on the board.

Why did Andrew try to blame Chloe for something that he did?  
What happened to Andrew?  
Who showed accountability?  
Who didn’t show accountability?  
Do you think the outcome was fair? Why/why not?

Perform the play with highlighted parts for players.

Discuss the questions on the board with regard to: Bank teller, cafeteria worker, doctor, school nurse, grandparent, teacher, principal, weather forecaster, custodian, parent, county commissioner, child.

**Third Grade:** play “Responsibility Relay”. Need four baseball caps, strips of paper, 2 pencils. Divide students into two teams. Set up caps at opposite ends for each team. Place strips of paper with responsibilities in caps at one end of designated area. At signal, a student picks out a strip of paper, reads it with team members and writes appropriate response.

Then runs to other cap and places strip in it. The next team member picks up another strip and follows the same sequence of actions. The first team to use all their strips of paper wins. Example of paper strip: “Being on time student writes an example.”

<INSERT IDEA #54 RESPONSIBILITY IN SPORTS  
ACTIVITY SHEET – 2 PAGES>

<INSERT IDEA #31 PLAY – “THE FINGER OF  
BLAME” – 2 PAGES>

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Jackie Carter  
Presentation Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th  
Topic: Understanding Others' Actions  
Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

Discuss this scenario: You're a recent immigrant to the United States and have come to live in Centreville. Are you responsible for obeying the laws if you do not know what they are? If you unknowingly break a law should you be held accountable?

Role Play: Select five students. One will be the immigrant. Use some identifiable clothing for a costume such as a sari, poncho, or robe. One will be a police officer. Use a badge and a hat for costume. Three will be bystanders. A hat and vest could be used as costumes. One could use a can for walking. Be creative.

Scene: The immigrant crosses the street in the middle of the block. One of the bystanders stops the immigrant to tell him that he is jaywalking. He should use the crosswalk at the intersection for his/her own safety. The police officer arrives. The other bystander is standing by the police officer explaining what happened. How does the scene unfold?

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Sharon Chilcoat

Presentation Grade: 5th

Topic: What is a (1) Challenge? (2) Responsible Person? (3) Role Model?

Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

I presented this topic the Wednesday immediately following the University of Maryland's win of the NCAA basketball championship. Both the boys and girls were very excited about this win. The media focused a great deal on the superb playing skills of Juan Dixon. The students were really "smitten" by Juan!

I read an article about Juan's background. Afterwards we discussed what they saw as a challenge, responsible person, and a role model. The article, in detail, spoke of his parents' deaths from drug overuse (jail time for the father) while Juan was quite young.

Also, Juan (described and teased as a skinny kid) was not supposed to be any good on the basketball court. From that we applied challenge, responsibility, and role model to Juan. The responses and in-depth comments from the students were great!

I followed with a big two-page spread in the Baltimore Sun showing Juan Dixon as one of the nine leaders for the Baltimore Believe Leaders (a majority Baltimore campaign to combat illegal drugs).

We discussed why Juan was chosen to help lead Baltimore in this massive campaign – again – challenge, responsibility, and role model became so evident and important.

It was fun!

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Ellen Rajacich  
Presentation Grade: 5th  
Topic: Always be Prepared, Plan Ahead  
Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

I listed, with phone numbers, possible summer activities. This was in a centerfold of the Star Democrat in 2001. After asking what plans the class members had already planned for the summer, I emphasized available scholarships in all programs.

Plan ahead: Discussed planning by asking the following questions:

- When do you pack your book bag?
- Time to eat breakfast?
- Clothes out before bed?
- Class schedule?
- Next weekend?
- Next month, next year, et cetera?

I showed the class my year calendar – the students found this graph of one year awesome! I gave one bandaid to each student – not to open now – but to have in their book bag to ***Be Prepared!***

*(See attached form)*

Chesapeake College sports camps  
With YMCA  
Tennis  
Baseball  
Basketball  
Soccer  
Field Hockey  
410-822-0566

Talbot County Parks and Recreation  
Day Camps  
410-770-8050

Pickering Creek Eco Camp  
Week Camps  
410-822-4903

Delmarva Space Training Center  
Chestertown  
Week camps 10 and older  
410-778-0882

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum  
Week and day camp  
410-745-2916

Art Academy  
Classes in drawing, painting and crafts  
410-822-0455

Talbot County Free Library  
Story Hours  
410-822-1626

Adkins Arboretum  
Weekend and day camps  
Canoe trips, Tree identification  
410-643-2847

YMCA  
8 weekly camps for all ages  
Beginning June 3  
410-822-0566

Moton Elementary summer programs

Swim lessons. Swim team at community pool.

Sports, learn and improve

Write a journal

Make something

**READ!**

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Linda Meade  
Presentation Grade: 5th  
Topic: Do the Best and Work Hard at What You Do – Persevere.  
Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

“Dreams and Passions” – I presented by three 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at White Marsh Elementary with a challenge to explain their Dreams and Passions in a short paragraph, collage, or drawing. I gave them each a piece of paper with the outline of a cloud entitled “Dreams and Passions”.

As an example for them to read and see, I had prepared my own collage and paragraph to give them an idea of my Dreams and Passions. Throughout the week the teachers helped by encouraging the student to complete this assignment. The next Tuesday, to my surprise, EVERY student handed me a completed cloud.

They were so pleased with this project. Some students had made collages, some were crayoned and neatly written, some were cut out and some were added to colored paper. But the best part for me was that they all completed the assignment.

I was curious to see what a 5<sup>th</sup> grader might hope to accomplish. To my surprise, many were patriotic, many dream to be race car drivers, soccer players, and baseball players. I found that a couple wish to be doctors and several want to “help other people” in some way.

There are many future fashion designers. But most want to be rich and have expensive cars and homes. In follow up we talked at length about *perseverance and always do your best!*

Later the teachers asked that I make a bulletin board in the hallway near the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. At first I thought of choosing the best ten from each class. But as I was working in the hall they were all so excited to see their work as they passed that I felt it was only fair to put all the clouds there ...*for all to see!*

*I hope that they will keep trying and I hope that their dreams will always come true!*

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: John Ekdahl  
Presentation Grade: 5th  
Topic: Planning for a Trip  
Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

I told the class to imagine that they were about to embark on a long boat voyage to a destination several days travel from here. I asked them to help me develop a list of the things I must consider when I plan for the trip. With some coaching I helped fill in some topics that might have been overlooked. But they really named most without help.

List on the blackboard (left side): food, crew, training, charts and maps, fuel, life jackets, lights, life boats, blankets, radio, navigation plan, radio, phone, captain, reservations for a place to dock, sails, hats, coats, sunglasses.

After we exhausted this list I said that their journey through life was similar to the exercise we just discussed with the boat trip. On the right side of the blackboard I began to list some parallels in their journey.

List on the blackboard (right side): their peer group (crew), a play (navigation), training, navigation hazards such as drugs, alcohol and smoking, selecting the right tools and support and training for their trade or career, leadership (captain, parent, coach), choosing advanced schooling, avoiding or dumping bad crew (peers).

Thinking through exactly where they wanted to go and all they needed to plan to get there. A careful plan helps insure they are more likely to reach their goal.

Growing up responsibly means ***PLANNING***.

***Bon Voyage!***

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: --  
Presentation Grade: All  
Topic: Think Before You Speak  
Pillar: Responsibility

### DETAILS:

Ask question, “What does it mean to “ “Think Before You Speak?” Why is this topic part of responsibility?

Change the topic to Communication. When we communicate which sense do we use the most? Listening. The most important part of communicating is listening.

### Listening exercise:

- Sit facing them.
- Open posture.
- Lean forward.
- Eye contact.
- Reflect what they are saying.

Get some volunteers and ask them to make conversation.

Responsible to really listen to someone and try to understand what is being said before you speak.

## Winners Walk Tall Presentation Idea

Character Coach Name: Susan Clifford

Presentation Grade: 5th

Topic: Always be Prepared, Plan Ahead

Pillar: Responsibility

DETAILS: