



Advisory Periods

What is *WiseSkills*?

WiseSkills is a comprehensive character-building program that equips young people with the critical character qualities they need to be successful. *WiseSkills* includes three separate, yet interconnected, components that help schools, families, and communities cultivate good character in young people.

Many middle and high schools have advisory periods where teachers may interact less formally with students and engage them in simple activities that develop critical life skills. The *WiseSkills* materials for middle and high schools include a variety of practical resources for advisory teachers to cultivate in students the important character qualities that will help young people succeed in and out of school. Because advisory teachers have little time to prepare lessons, the *WiseSkills* advisory activities require no preparation and are designed for 10-20 minute class periods.

To help unite a whole school around positive character, the advisory resources are organized around monthly *Character Themes*. This helps the whole school focus on a particular character quality at the same time. In addition, the *WiseSkills* materials includes activities and projects to integrate positive character into every school subject area, including *English/language arts, social studies, math, science, and P.E.* Consequently, teachers can also choose to connect the schoolwide *Character Themes* to the subjects they teach.

In Search of Character Video Series

In Search of Character is a powerful 10-part video series that features candid discussions about character where teens share their experiences about the choices they make. This video resource, available from *WiseSkills*, is perfect for stimulating meaningful discussions in advisory periods.

Below is a list of the middle and high school advisory resources included in *WiseSkills*.

Advisory Resources	School Component		Family Component
	<i>WiseLives</i> (6-8)	<i>Wisdom for Life</i> (9-12)	<i>Family Wisdom</i> (6-8)
Character Quotations	●	●	●
Small Group Activities	●	●	●
Discussion Ideas	●	●	●
Role Plays	●		
Media Issues & Activities	●	●	●
Service Project Ideas	●	●	●
Reproducible Activity Pages	●		●
Reproducible Biographies of Role Models	●	●	
Activities for <i>In Search of Character</i> Video Series		●	

WiseSkills & Advisory Periods

Samples of the Advisory Period Resources in *WiseSkills*

WiseLives (Grades 3-5)

Friendship

1. Without using names, have students share about friends who have encouraged negative behavior and attitudes. Discuss if these were friendships based on wanting the best for one another.
2. Have students make a list of their closest friends. Have students write one or two qualities that they really appreciate about each friend.
3. Have students take personal inventories about how they are good friends and how they can be better friends.

WiseLives (Grades 6-8)

Patience

1. Have students share with partners about something they received after waiting for it a long time. Have some students share with the class and discuss why they were able to be so patient.
2. In groups, have students make a table contrasting patient behavior with impatient behavior.
3. *Role-Play:*
Cheryl had to go with her mother to a doctor's appointment. It was supposed to be a 20-minute appointment, but it has been over 45 minutes. Cheryl is waiting in the waiting room...

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Wisdom for Life (Grades 9-12)

Trustworthiness

1. **Being Trustworthy**
Discuss what is the most difficult part of being a trustworthy person.
2. **Trustworthy Lessons**
Have students tell about lessons they have learned in becoming a trustworthy person.
3. **Trustworthy Celebrities?**
Have students list names of celebrities they respect. Then discuss whether those people seem to be trustworthy.

Wisdom for Life (Grades 9-12)

Integrity

1. **Temptations**
Make a list of things that could tempt students to compromise their integrity?
2. **Convictions & Actions**
Make a list on the board of some of students' values and convictions [doing well in school is important, don't use drugs, be kind to others, etc.]. Challenge students to notice if their actions are in line with their values.
3. **How School Can Help**
Ask students, "Does our school help you become people of integrity? Why or why not? What could our school do to help develop integrity in students?"