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# The Six Pillars of Character

#### hese six core ethical values form the

foundation of <u>the CHARACTER COUNTS!</u> <u>youth-ethics initiative</u>. More detailed discussion of the Six Pillars is included in *Making Ethical Decisions*, a Josephson Institute booklet available online <u>here</u>.

### trustworthiness

Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends and country

### respect

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements

### responsibility

Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use selfcontrol • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices

### fairness

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly

# caring

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

# citizenship

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment

#### **Six Pillar Mnemonics**

To help young people remember the Pillars, some educators employ these creative devices.

#### **Color Scheme**

Each of the Six Pillars is associated with a certain color.

- **Trustworthiness: Blue** like "True Blue"
- Respect: Yellow or Gold like the Golden Rule
- Responsibility: Green as in being responsible for a garden or finances; or as in being solid and reliable like an oak
- Fairness: Orange like dividing an orange into equal sections to share fairly with friends
- Caring: Red like a heart
- Citizenship: Purple as in the regal purple representing the state

#### TRRFCC

Use this acronym to help you remember that people with good character are terrific:

rustworthiness

Respect

Responsibility

Fairness

Caring

Citizenship



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