

Department: Construction industry

MORAL COURAGE

CLIL PROJECT

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Class: 5 BW

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Task & Goal

Our task was to deal with different topics concerning moral courage. We had seven topics at our disposal and each group had to decide on a topic and work it out in detail. First of all, we have all together submitted our ideas and important points on all seven topics, so that each group has approximately the same number of positive and negative aspects. Then we worked out all the aspects that were on our paper and created a presentation.

The result should show a multitude of different perspectives regarding "What is moral courage?" and its arguments and counterarguments.

This project is very important for our group, because we believe that moral courage is one of the most important issues today and will continue to be so in the future.

What is moral courage?

Moral courage is the courage to take actions for moral reasons despite the risk of adverse consequences. Moral courage therefore involves deliberation or careful thought. It may also require physical courage when the consequences are punishment or other bodily peril. Moral courage means standing up for other people rights and take risks even though it could mean that you could become a victim yourself.

The value of moral courage

Moral courage is essential not only for a virtuous life, but a happy one. Without courage, we have no control over our lives. Our fears corrode our spirit and confine us like a barbed wire fence. Moral courage is equally important for leadership in business, nonprofit, political or any other type of organisation. Group members always expect their leaders to have the moral courage to act in accordance with their own and the organisation's values.

Steps to build courage

1) Identify your strengths:

- do not be shy
- reflect on what you know that you do well

2) Identify your fears:

- What is stopping you from sharing your thoughts/ strengths?
- Do you communicate with your teacher/ classmates? – If not, what are you afraid of?
- Are you worrying about what others will think of you?

3) Stop comparing yourself to others:

- Every person is different and comparing yourself to other people can minimize your self- confidence.

4) Embrace the positive and avoid the negative

- Negative thoughts and attitudes are draining and if you give in to them, they will become stronger and undermine your confidence and courage.

5) Take action – NOW!

Moral courage at school

1) MOBBING

- if someone gets bullied → help and defend the victim
- nobody deserves to be bullied
- before you bully someone, ask yourself, if you want to be bullied in the same way
- people who bully someone are mostly unsatisfied with their own life
- do not look away from the situation

2) PREJUDICES

- create your own opinion about someone
- do not believe what the others say about a person or a group
- do not allow them to spread false information

3) RACISM

- respect your schoolmates
- do not judge someone by their race/ skin colour/ clothes/ religion
- everyone is beautiful and clever in his/her way
- nobody deserves to be judged
- every person is unique, no matter what

4) THREATS

- if someone gets threatened → protect him/her
- look together for people who are experts in this field
- always support the victim

5) DISCRIMINATION

- accept everyone (schoolmates and teachers) in the way they actually are
- do not pretend that it is not happening
- do not judge anyone

6) VIOLENCE

- do not hurt people with actions or even words
- contact a teacher for helping you
- do not look away
- help always wherever you can

7) FEAR

- always be nice to everyone
- nobody should be afraid of the schoolmates and teachers
- do not be afraid of that the teacher will not like you
- do not be afraid of that your class will not accept you

8) UNFAIRNESS

- support your classmates, if they get a not justified mark
- help your classmates if the teachers treat them unfair
- look together for a way to solve this problem

9) COURAGE

- do not be afraid to outline your own opinion/ point of view
- do not be afraid of helping other people in need
- to advocate for others regardless of the consequences for yourself

10) SAFETY

- give your classmates the feeling that they are accepted
- show them that you like them
- do not ignore them and do not get out of their way
- try to strengthen the class community

11) TEAMWORK/ COOPERATION

- work together on a project
- try to help the others when they need it
- it is good to be able to work with different personalities on a project
- if someone is in trouble, try together to find to help him/her

12) JUSTICE

- help your classmates to pass an examination
- do not lie to the teacher or classmates
- teacher must act as a friend and philosopher and help the students to identify what is right and what is wrong
- support each other
- do not talk behind someone's back
- study together
- motivate each other

PROS & CONS

PROS

- get respect and recognition from the ones who had not the courage to say something
- a “Thank you” for helping them
- you will have a good feeling because you have done something
- a person feels much better because of your help
- you will have a role model function for the others
- you will gain self- confidence

CONS

- you could get a victim yourself
- your life could be in danger
- you could get excluded as well
- the assistance provided is not always accepted
- people think that they do not achieve anything when they help someone
- you could get offended

When is it better to be a “chicken”?

Moral courage is important but sometimes it is better not to intervene and to be cowardly. If we are facing a danger our subconscious often tells us to stay away from it which is a good thing. We should not endanger our lives for moral courage, there are professionals for that. So it is no shame to stand still and call the emergency number rather than intervene.

Conclusion

After this elaboration we can say that moral courage is a very important topic and indispensable in everyday life. In addition, this issue affects not only young people but also the elderly. Although, moral courage is still important today, we hope that it will become even more important in the future.

Together we can make a difference, because it is the little things, that matter the most!