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Developing a Good Work Ethic Requires Real Work!

Some people seem content to work just hard enough to complete the task at hand. These people are displaying what can be called a poor work ethic. Other people work hard to complete their appointed rounds, but they are not really concerned with the quality of their work. These people are displaying a mediocre work ethic. There are people, however, who work diligently throughout the entire process of a job or task, and they always do a very good job no matter how much time and effort they must expend. These people are showing everybody around them that they possess a positive or solid work ethic. In this highly competitive world, whether people are looking for jobs, completing degree programs at colleges or universities, or simply acting as solid citizens, they should show the world that it is both ethical and necessary to work very hard at each and every task that arises.

As early as elementary school or even kindergarten, young students should be taught that sticking with a task until it is done well is quite important. Teachers in elementary school should model actions and behaviors that illustrate a positive work ethic. Youngsters should realize that any task worth beginning is well worth completing by doing the best job possible. A good example can be seen in the most rudimentary activity a young student performs in elementary school—coloring. When students are instructed to color a certain page in a coloring book or on an activity sheet, they should be instructed to take their time to do the best job they can. The teacher should model for the students a process through which the youngsters can color the picture little by little, taking their time to use correct colors staying inside the lines as much as

possible. Students who are in a hurry to complete the task in a haphazard fashion should be urged to slow down in order to focus on doing a quality job. Even this seemingly simplistic task can teach students the valuable lesson of working hard at all times and producing the best final product possible. The sooner people learn this lesson, the easier it will be for them to acquire a positive work ethic.

By the time students get to high school or college, their work ethic has already been established, and it will be put to the test through the various final products they will be asked to complete. Students with a positive work ethic will succeed much more readily than students with a mediocre or poor work ethic. At this level the work becomes more in depth and more difficult. Students are left to their own devices much more often, and the ability to work independently is a necessity. Therefore, exhibiting a positive work ethic is actually expected of these students from freshman year to senior year, in high school, college, or at the university. The perfect example of the necessity of a positive work ethic can be seen in the assignment of a research paper in just about any class. Usually students are instructed how to begin the paper and where to find valuable sources, but until the paper is due in the weeks or months to come, they are left on their own. Students who do not possess the drive and perseverance to complete the paper on their own will most assuredly do a poor job, thus receiving a poor grade. This goes to show that a good work ethic consists of more than just hard, consistent work. Time management, intuitive thinking, foresight, and, of course, diligence all make up a solid work ethic. Successful students typically receive high grades, and the grades are the direct result of a positive work ethic.

Successful employees in all walks of professional life also need to bring a positive work ethic to the workplace. Competition for jobs in contemporary society is intense; employers are thus able to scrutinize their prospective employees quite carefully. Naturally, an employer is

looking to hire somebody who is willing to tackle any task and complete it to the best of his ability in the most expeditious way. In other words the employer is looking for an employee who possesses a solid work ethic and is proud to show everybody that he relishes the thought of working hard. If two employees are vying for the same position within a company, their supervisor will most likely give them both a similar project to complete. The employee who does the best job on the project within the allotted time will receive the promotion. If both employees complete the task within the allotted time, the employee who has done the best work will receive the promotion. More often than not, the best work is a direct result of the best work ethic. There is no substitute for hard work on the jobsite; employers love to see the results of a positive work ethic.

On the job, in college or at a university, in high school, or in primary school, people must work hard to succeed. Nobody sets out to fail, but succeeding is not as simple as merely beginning a task. The late President Richard Nixon once said, “People do not plan to fail; they fail to plan.” He was alluding to work ethic. People generally try hard to succeed, but if they do not bring their plans for success to fruition, they will most assuredly fail. Planning every step of a process on the way to success is an important part of a positive work ethic. Some people might think that working hard comes naturally, and perhaps for some this is true. However, as redundant as it sounds, a positive work ethic begins with one main ingredient—real work!