Morals Module: Lesson Plan Template

Time: 45 Minutes

As you plan your lesson, identify areas that address one of the five MMP Essential Element. The five MMP essential elements are:

* **Intellectual Inquiry**
* **Personal Contemplation**
* **Community Conversation**
* **Strategic Decision-making**
* **Cultural Engagement**

# Key Question about Morals:

The key question about morals from the Moral Moments Project is: **Am I showing what I believe by what I am doing?**

# Lesson Objectives:

Students will be able to:

1. Students will have a deeper understanding of what is morality, how is it displayed and understood in human interactions and animal interactions. Students will then apply the information learned through this lesson and will be encouraged to observe behaviors and exchanges in their daily interactions (online or in-person) that would indicate moral or immoral interactions. These observations will be described in an online discussion post.

# Lesson Preparation:

1. Observe the [*Ted Talk – Moral Behaviors in Animals*](https://www.ted.com/talks/frans_de_waal_moral_behavior_in_animals?utm_campaign=tedspread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare)
2. Review discussion prompts and prepare for an in-depth discussion with students

# Warm up:

* Prior to watching the Ted Talk – Moral Behaviors in Animals, students will work in small groups of three or four people and they will then:
  + Define, in their own words, “Morality” and determine what comprises one’s morals.
  + Decide if morals are something someone can learn? Justify their answer.
  + Decide if animals have moral behaviors? Justify their answer.
  + Discuss if morality is important in society. Justify their answer.

# Learning Activities:

1. Students will actively work to define morality in their own words.
2. Students will work with students to discuss and justify if and how individuals display morality prior to being exposed to a deeper look at morality through the Ted Talk.
3. Following the Ted Talk, students will revisit their initial discussion questions and evaluate if they would change their original answers and if so, how/why they would change their answers.
4. Additionally, we will discuss what is fairness and how is it portrayed in the video.
5. Students will be encouraged to identify at least three key take away from the video and describe why these key points stuck out to them.

Homework: Self-assessment and Reflection 1

Students will continue this evaluation and observation of morality in their daily lives. Through an online discussion forum, students will identify how an individual in their life displayed acts of morality and an individual (someone they know personally or celebrity) display acts of immorality. Students will reflect on their feelings and opinions of these individuals and how their thoughts, feelings and impressions have changed do to their moral or immoral acts.

## Modifications

Suggestions and strategies for modifying the lesson plan above. You may want to add considerations for students who may struggle with the material, large or very small enrollment courses, etc.