Defining Work Ethic

STEP 1

An important trait to develop as both a student and future employee is work ethic. People are not born with a work ethic – it is something that can be developed over time. Throughout this activity you will have learned what work ethic is and why it's important in the workplace. You will also assess your own levels of work ethic.

> **Work Ethic:** Work ethic is a value based on hard work and diligence. It is also a belief in the moral benefit of work and its ability to enhance character.

**Definition sourced from: Educalingo

Consider the definition of work ethic provided, and what you know of the concept already. In the space below, brainstorm one time in your life where you felt that you showed a STRONG work ethic, and another example of a time in your life where you felt you showed a WEAK work ethic.

STRONG Example

WEAK Example

Rate Yourself

The table below contains the four traits of work ethic. Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 for each of these traits.

Self-Motivation

You don't need to be prompted to get things done.

10

Initiative

You propose new ideas and take matters into your own hands.

10

Punctuality

You respect deadlines and turn things in on time.

10

Commitment

You are dedicated to the task at hand.

10

STEP 2

Consider

If you were hiring employees for a company, which of those traits would be the most important to you? Why?

Would You Rather

The statements below represent people you could encounter in the workplace with varying levels of work ethic. Evaluate each scenario and choose the person you would rather work with.

Scenario 1

Who would you rather work with?

◉ **A person who works hard to contribute to group projects.**

○ **A person who doesn't meet deadlines or produce quality work.**

Scenario 2

Who would you rather work with?

◉ **A person who has a positive attitude and figures out how to get things done.**

○ **A person who complains and does the bare minimum to get by.**

Scenario 3

Who would you rather work with?

◉ **A person who stays focused and is always doing their best.**

○ **A person who is constantly goofing off while others are working.**

Reflect

Write a short paragraph reflecting on this activity as a whole. In what ways do you have a strong or a weak work ethic? Is there an area (or two) that you should improve? Why?

Tips: For tips on how to improve work ethic, or why this is important in your professional life, click the link below.

View Work Ethic Tips