Why Them?

ACTIVITY: 'WHY THEM?'

TIME: 20+ minutes
SIZE: Small groups
SPACE: For small groups to sit in circles
RESOURCES: Paper, pens

The aim is for students to consider how effective/contented people set goals and work toward their futures.

The result should be an appreciation of the importance of goal setting and flexible thinking in relation to developing a strong Sense of Future.

1. Break the class into small groups of three to five students. Have these groups sit in circles.

2. Ask groups to decide on a well-known person who has achieved/is achieving/is working towards something significant. The person might be historical or contemporary, and could be prominent in industries such as social work, the arts, entertainment, business, education, sport, etc. It is important that everyone in the group know of the person.

3. Give groups a few minutes to discuss the person they have selected. Where were they born? What was their upbringing like? When did they embark on their journey? What obstacles did they face? How did personal relationships affect/inspire/support the journey?

4. Now give groups five minutes to brainstorm a list of 10 qualities that help sum up their subject's character, particularly in regards to their ability to achieve their goal.

5. Have a spokesperson from each group summarise for the wider class the group's findings and list of 10 qualities. Consider writing a master list of these qualities on the board.

6. Commence discussion.

DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

• What common qualities did you find among the subjects chosen?

• Were these qualities dependent on the subjects' backgrounds or schooling? Did they reflect the values held by the subjects?

• How important was goal setting to the subjects?

• How important were planning skills to the subjects?

• Do you think the subjects would still be contented/successful/rewarded had they not been able to achieve their goals for some reason? What else might they have done?

• Which skills possessed by the subjects do you have? Which do you admire? Which can you work on?