

# PERSONAL TRAITS OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

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## OBJECTIVES/RATIONALE

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In the health care work place, personal traits like character, values, morals, ethics, integrity, and trustworthiness are vital. The student will identify character traits and analyze professionalism.

TEKS 121.3 (c) 3A, 4A, 5C, 5D

TAKS ELA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

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## KEY POINTS

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- I. Judgment and decision-making
  - A. Multiple decisions must be made everyday
    - 1. What to do
    - 2. Why to do it
    - 3. How to do it
    - 4. When to do it
    - 5. Where
    - 6. Whom to do it with
  - B. Decisions require thought and carry significant consequences
- II. Character traits
  - A. Professionalism brings together who you are as a person and how those traits contribute to the workplace.
  - B. Personal values are things that have a high degree of worth to the individual.
  - C. Reputation – character in the view of the community
  - D. Morals – capability of differentiation between right and wrong
  - E. Integrity – of sound moral principal
  - F. Trustworthiness/Respect/Honesty
    - 1. Be to work on time
    - 2. Perform the responsibilities of job with competence
    - 3. Keep promises and meet obligations

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## ACTIVITIES

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- I. Discuss and develop answers to What If Scenarios. Present findings to class.

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## MATERIALS NEEDED

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Textbook---The Healthcare Worker's Primer on Professionalism by Sherry Makely  
What If Scenarios

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## **ASSESSMENT**

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Completion of What If Scenarios

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## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

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For reinforcement, the student will outline the professional traits of a character in a movie, book or television program.

For enrichment, the student will research newspaper/journal articles documenting a breach in professionalism. Report findings.

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## **REFLECTIONS**

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## What If Scenarios

What would you do in the following situations?

1. You witness a coworker taking money from the petty cash box in your department. She says she needs to borrow the money to get her car fixed, and she'll pay it back when she gets her next paycheck. She reminds you that she did you a big favor when you first started your job and asks that you not report her to the supervisor.
2. You need to have your time card signed by the end of the day. You know your supervisor would sign it, but she's tied up in a meeting and your shift ends in 10 minutes.
3. You have one more paper to turn in for a course that is required for your job. You kept the weekend open to write it, but an old friend calls and says he'll be in town for the weekend and would like to spend some time with you. You know there won't be enough time both to write the paper and to visit with your friend. You just happen to have a copy of a paper that someone else wrote for the same course two years ago that earned a grade of "B." A new instructor who would never know you didn't write the paper yourself is teaching the course.
4. Your supervisor asked you to attend a meeting in her place, but you forgot to go. You know she'll be upset with you because she needs the information that was distributed. Someone else you know did go to the meeting and has agreed to give you copies of the materials. When you hand the information to your supervisor, she asks, "So what did you think of the meeting?"

5. A patient on your unit gets discharged. While cleaning the room for the next patient, you find an expensive watch in the drawer in the bedside table. It's a woman's watch and the former patient was a man.
  
6. When you open your paycheck, you realize you got paid for a day that you didn't work.
  
7. You'd like to call your sister in Maine, but can't afford the long-distance phone charge. The phone in the break room has long-distance access, and other workers have used it for personal calls without being questioned.
  
8. As a research assistant, your salary and the project you're involved in are funded by a federal grant. If the results of the research are positive, the grant and your job will get renewed for another year. The director of the research project asks you to help him change some of the data to indicate better results.
  
9. When it's time for your annual competency evaluation, your supervisor announces that you and your coworkers will be checking each other off. Your coworkers get together and decide just to give each other a satisfactory evaluation without actually checking each person's competency level.