

# DISCUSS: Virtue Education and College Life

## Purpose

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The purpose of this discussion is to help you think critically about how virtue ethics might be applied to the life of a college student like yourself. “Virtue education” is a growing trend in education for students grade K-12. The goal of virtue education is to help students form good habits of character in addition to learning standard grade level knowledge. Both private and public schools have adopted the “virtue education” model. There are even some public charter “virtue education” schools located in the Twin Cities area. These schools have adopted core virtues for students to focus on and they have developed a plan for how to teach these virtues and reinforce them in student behavior. This discussion will get you to think critically about what this model of education might look like if extended to college students.

This assignment aligns with the following learning outcomes:

- Be able to apply virtue ethics to everyday situations

## Tasks

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1. Read these very short articles by [Lickona](#) and [McDonnell](#). They explain that the basic steps to implementing a virtue education program, such as selecting virtues and developing an action plan to promote them. They also provide descriptions of important virtues.

2. Look at these examples of what schools have chosen as their virtues, how they describe the virtues and what actions they identify as exemplifying the virtue. They are from the [Golden View \(Links to an external site.\)](#) public charter school in Colorado and a local public charter school in St. Paul the [Nova Classical Academy \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

3. Respond to the following prompts:

1. Select what you think are the three most important virtues that UST students need to flourish. For each virtue:
  - A. Provide the name and a short description of the virtue.
  - B. List two or three actions that students can do to display that they have the virtue.

2. List at least two ideas for how the university can better promote virtues among its students.

## Criteria for Success

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Follow these guidelines to be successful on this discussion.

- Read all of the materials linked in the instructions above.
- Respond to every aspect of the prompt.
- You have posted your response to the prompt above (due Sunday at 11:59pm)
- You have responded to at least two of your peers (due Tuesday 11:59pm).