

THE AMERICAN CENTER FOR CIVIC CHARACTER

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Character Resource Tools *Honesty Self-Assessment*

(Adapted from “Honesty with Others; Spirit of Revival 1995”) *This worksheet is intended to stimulate your thinking and is confidential to you.* How honest are you with others? Do you really know what honesty means? In the privacy of your home (or by the end of the business day), take 15 minutes to ponder and honestly respond to the questions below. What issues does this raise? Is your conscience convicted? What motivates you towards dishonesty? What steps can you take towards greater honesty? Who might help hold you accountable to these goals?

EXAGGERATION

- Overstating the truth by using words like “always” and “never”
- Making sweeping generalizations about people or situations
- Overstating (or understating) the seriousness of a situation in order to make a point or to achieve a greater effect

FLATTERY

- Giving insincere praise
- Complimenting another to enhance my own reputation in their eyes

LYING

- Slandering—spreading false reports about another, with the intent to inflict hurt
- Answering direct questions with untruths in order to protect my reputation
- Falsifying time cards, employment applications, expense reports, or tax returns for personal benefit

MISLEADING

- Leaving a false impression (though my spoken words may be true)
- Communicating facts selectively to influence others for my own purposes

INACCURACY

- Failing to verify the facts before repeating a story
- Carelessness with regard to factual details of stories
- Failing to speak precisely or to make sure that my words are literally true

DECEPTION

- Allowing people to say things that are untrue about another person and implying consent by my silence
- Attempting to create a better impression of myself than is honestly true

HYPOCRISY

- Praising another to his/her face while criticizing him/her behind her back

INCONSISTENCY

- Flip-flopping on issues depending on my audience