

Activity 2

Good Deeds

9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE

Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Debate the merits of specific good deeds. ■ Write an essay in defense of the “best” good deed.
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-12.1 ■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-12.1 ■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-12.3 ■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-12.4
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Journal: Good Deeds Analysis printable ■ Internet access
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Print a copy of Journal: Good Deeds Analysis printable for each student.
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In the days after 9/11, people across the country felt united by a desire to help and support one another, creating an extraordinary spirit of empathy and resilience. ■ Many Americans stopped thinking about the differences that often separate us, at least for a while. ■ For those who lived through the tragedy of 9/11, that time of caring and helpfulness remains an important reminder that we are stronger as people, and as a nation, when we work together
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If you completed Activity 1: Why Do Good Deeds? continue to Activity. <p>If you did not complete Activity 1: Why Do Good Deeds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ask students to share their definition of a good deed. ■ Share that a good deed is a deliberate act of kindness, service, or sacrifice that is carried out for the benefit of others. It is not about receiving recognition or praise, but about making a positive impact on the world and helping those who are less fortunate. Good deeds require courage, compassion, and a strong sense of social responsibility. ■ Have 4 or 5 students provide examples of good deeds they have witnessed or participated in (as the one doing the deed or as the beneficiary of it – or both). ■ Ask students to describe the impact they believe these good deeds had and to imagine all the people who were affected by the good deed. (Encourage them to be creative in imagining how far the effects of a good deed can spread beyond the initial receiver.) ■ To help visual learners, you may wish to create a concept web of their examples on the board or chart paper.

**Activity**

- Have students form small groups around a device with internet access.
- Direct students to visit the page [More Good Deeds For You](#).
- Instruct groups to debate their opinions about the ideas they read, advocating for the ideas they think are most valuable for students their age, giving reasons to support their choices.
- Encourage students to think about more than just which idea they like; point out that they could advocate for an idea for reasons such as:
 - the deed that could have the greatest impact
 - the idea that is most accessible/feasible for students (in terms of finances, transportation, safety, etc.)
 - the one that students have a particular aptitude for
- They should also discuss challenges that certain ideas may present and brainstorm ways to reduce or eliminate those obstacles.
- Have a volunteer from each group summarize the discussion for the class, pointing out in particular any areas of consensus and any challenges the group focused on.
- Have students reflect on the group activity in their journals by using the [Journal: Good Deeds Analysis](#) printable to record the advantages, disadvantages, and solutions to one of the ideas their group discussed.
- As an extension, homework, or supplemental activity, have students write an argument essay to defend their position about which good deed is most valuable for students their age to do. Remind students to support their argument with one or more reasons and evidence. This may require additional research, either online or in the library.



Name _____ Date _____

Journal: Good Deeds Analysis

Think about the good deeds your group discussed. Describe the idea you think is most important to do.

Make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of your favorite idea. You should list at least three advantages and three disadvantages. Next, write ideas for eliminating or reducing the disadvantages. How can you work around them?

Advantages	Disadvantages	Ways to Overcome Disadvantages