

NFIB's Young Entrepreneur Foundation

What Makes an Entrepreneur?



Objective:

- To learn what it means to be an entrepreneur
- To understand which entrepreneurial traits they possess
- To discuss the idea of entrepreneurship

Material:

- Flip chart paper or marker board
- List of entrepreneurial quotes (provided in this curriculum)

Timeframe: 1 hour.

Activities:

- Begin the conversation by asking if the students know what the word entrepreneur means. If no one has an answer, then define the word as: one who organizes, manages, and takes on the risks of a business or enterprise. It can also mean: a person who pioneers change, like inventors, explorers, and small business owners. Or someone who finds a new way to do something.
- Have the group use these definitions to brainstorm some entrepreneurs that they may know. Encourage them with a few of your own examples—ask them who invented the telephone (Thomas Edison) to get their brains thinking and discuss why they think whoever they mention is an entrepreneur.
- Have the group brainstorm words that they think are related to entrepreneurs and write these words on a flip chart paper or a marker board (some example words might be: passion, skill, confidence, energy, commitment, flexibility, creativity, communication, etc.).
 - Do all successful entrepreneurs need all of these characteristics? Why or why not?
 - Which are the most important to being a successful entrepreneur? Why?
- Once there is a good list of words on the wall, have each student choose one of the words that they believe they possess. Have each student present for one minute, explaining:
 - An example of how they use this word
 - Why this word is important in their daily life
 - Why they chose the word they did
- Discuss how these words can be used in any career field they choose. Being an entrepreneur does not always mean starting your own business. Sometimes it can mean trying to do something in a new way.
- Write the following quotes on flipchart paper and hang them around the room. Split the group into even groups for each of the quotes. Have them discuss how they think these quotes relate to entrepreneurship.
 - Do you agree with the quote?
 - Can you think of an experience you've had that reminds you of this quote?
 - Does this quote tie in with any of the words that we used to define entrepreneurship?
 - How do you think your parents/grandparents/mentors/employees in this office relate to this quote?
- Wrap up the activity by saying that today, we will be using lots of entrepreneurial skills as we learn about this small business and what happens here every day.



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NFIB's Young Entrepreneur Foundation Entrepreneurial Quotes

Take Our Daughters
& Sons to Work®

I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work – Thomas Edison, Inventor and Scientist

The best reason to start an organization is to make meaning – to create a product or service to make the world a better place. – Guy Kawasaki,

Genius is 1% inspiration, and 99% perspiration. – Thomas Edison, Inventor and Scientist

What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve. – Napoleon Hill, Author

Choose a job that you like, and you will never have to work a day in your life.– Confucius , Thinker and Philosopher

Business opportunities are like buses, there's always another one coming. – Richard Branson, British Industrialist

Action is the foundational key to all success. – Pablo Picasso, Spanish Painter

Every worthwhile accomplishment, big or little, has its stages of drudgery and triumph: a beginning, a struggle and a victory. – Mahatma Gandhi, Political and Spiritual Leader

Some people dream of great accomplishments, while others stay awake and do them. – Anonymous

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing. – Walt Disney, Director, Writer, Producer, Animator,

I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying. – Michael Jordan, Professional Basketball Player