



What tips your scale?

Look at the list of ethical qualities at left below, and see where they match up with the qualities required for being responsible discussed in the Taking responsibility section.

This list encompasses some of the qualities or long-term benefits of choosing to be an ethical or responsible person. At the right are different types of benefits, which some would call “short-term.” In decision-making, long-term benefits should always outweigh short-term benefits.

Qualities or long-term benefits:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Integrity | Tolerance | Compassion |
| Respect | Responsibility | Leadership |
| Commitment | Innovation | Loyalty |
| Cooperation | Generosity | |

Qualities or short-term benefits:

- Money**
- Popularity**

Circle the benefits that you value most right now. Which do you think you would value the most if you were the coach of a professional sports team? Which would you value the most if you were the parent of a young child? What about if you were in a beauty pageant? Which of these undertakings would ask that you be the most responsible?

Quotes for Reflection

Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value. ~ *Albert Einstein*

A life lived with integrity – even if it lacks the trappings of fame and fortune – is a shining star in whose light others may follow in the years to come. ~ *Denis Waitley*

Character is much easier kept than recovered. ~ *Thomas Paine*

Character is doing the right thing when nobody’s looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that’s right is to get by, and the only thing that’s wrong is to get caught. ~ *J.C. Watts*

Keep true, never be ashamed of doing right; decide on what you think is right and stick to it. ~ *George Eliot*