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Cowboy Ethics: Do What Has to Be Done

Cowboy Ethics is a set of values and principles in which one should live their life. These principles were established in 2005 by James P. Owen in his book *Cowboy Ethics: What Wall Street Can Learn from the Code of the West*. Drawing from the known high character of western cowboys, Owen created a list by which all people could try to model their character. “Cowboy values are, ‘values all Americans can share, no matter what our politics, our religion, or our station in life.’” (Mappleton 2021) All of the principles are relevant and could directly apply to most individuals. Originally Owen wrote his book for business men and women after the economy started to decline in the early 2000s. Soon the principles were applied to many different areas including youth programs and education.

As a teacher, the principle that resonates the most with me is: do what has to be done. There are so many ways in which this is a great motto by which we could live. We can apply this to school, work, relationships, and life. For example, studying for a test might not be something that a student enjoys doing; however, when we practice “do what has to be done” we study because we need to, and we want a good grade. I feel this principle can serve my students well now and in the future. There are times in one’s career when he/she has to do something that is not necessarily something that is enjoyable, but is part of the job. There are many tasks that have to be done for the greater good of the team.

While all ten of the Cowboy Ethics would have a positive effect on students in the classroom, I feel the one that best applies not only to students at their current age, but in their future, as well is: do what has to be done.

References

Mappleton, C. (2021, September 16). *Cowboy Ethics | Ten Principles To Live By*. Carolyn's Nonprofit Blog. Retrieved October 19, 2021, from <https://carolynmappleton.com/cowboy-ethics-ten-principles/>