



5 Minute Activity

Competition is an Ingredient of High Standards - Levels of Competition

Read the following excerpt and Doc's quote from *Leadership Philosophies of the Clovis Unified School District* (pps. 60, 61,) and then discuss one of the prompts below.

Levels of Competition

Teaching kids to give their best effort to become better tomorrow than they are today; to overcome obstacles and compete against a standard of excellence; and finally, to compete together to pull from the team a combined performance that exceeds what any one individual is capable of attaining alone is the model of competition that helps students win in life. And at the end of the game, no matter who wins or loses, in Clovis Unified the alma mater of both schools is played, athletes respectfully face toward the stands of the opposing team to honor their effort, and students are still taught the flip side of the competition coin, to win with class and lose with dignity.

"We want you to teach our kids what to do when they lose. We want you to get them off their duffs and get them back in the fight. Don't you let them give up." (Doc Buchanan)

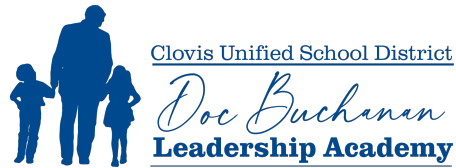
Discussion Prompts:

Emerging Leaders (101): John Wooden, often considered the greatest NCAA basketball coach of all time, has some great quotes on competition. A favorite is, "Competitive greatness is having a real love for the hard battle, knowing it offers the opportunity to be at your best when your best is required." Coach Wooden never mentioned being competitive in association with winning or being a great competitor in association with being a winner. What he talked about is enjoying the fight. Let's think about that in terms of leadership. It's a lot like "getting up off your duff" and "getting back in the fight" when you know what you're doing is good for children. Describe the toughest "fight" you have had on behalf of students? Why was it important?

Established Leaders (201): A recent survey of high school referees' responded to the question, "Is sportsmanship getting better or worse?" 68.81% of the respondents said it is getting worse, 21.25% said no change, and 10.14% said it is getting better. More than 50 percent of all respondents have feared for their safety at some point in their career because of administrator, coach, player, or spectator behavior. Sadly, nearly 12 percent of all officials who responded have been physically assaulted during or after a sporting event.

In Clovis Unified we teach our students to *win with class and lose with dignity, no matter what the competition is; academics, performing arts, athletics*. As a leader how do you ensure adults do the same? Draft an elevator speech to give to all coaches, parents, and students regarding winning with class and losing with dignity. An elevator speech is about 30 seconds.

Tenured Leaders (301): So many of Doc's philosophies pertain to not only children, but also the adults surrounding them. This simple statement rings true for what a Clovis leader wants for students, employees,



and themselves. *To give your best effort to become better tomorrow than they are today; to overcome obstacles and compete against a standard of excellence; and finally, to compete together to pull from the team a combined performance that exceeds what any one individual is capable of attaining alone.* As a leader in Clovis Unified, you are the head coach, whether it is at the district, area, division, site, or department level. Identify the written plans that guide how you and your team become better every day and answer these five questions: Do they exist? Are they of quality? Are they used? Do they make a difference? How do you know?