



Summer Institute Mini Course at Project Zero (Cambridge, MA)  
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### Background

The Project Zero Classroom (PZC) institute is designed to help educators create classrooms, instructional materials, and out-of-school learning environments that promote students' efforts to understand important content; recognize and develop students' multiple intellectual strengths; encourage students to think critically and creatively; and assess student work in ways that further the learning. In addition to Kindergarten through Grade 12 educators and administrators, we encourage pre-school teachers, teacher educators, and museum educators to attend.

### GoodWork Toolkit Course Description

What is a good journalist? Is a "good" journalist one who frequently gets her stories on the front page, even if her tactics are questionable? Or, is a "good" journalist one who will not compromise professional standards even if this means her stories garner less attention? In this mini course, we will explore what it means to be a "good" professional and we will explore a unique educational approach to prepare young students, our future workers, to become "good workers" in school-related contexts and other professional settings. Participants will be involved in a variety of individual and group tasks that will offer them an opportunity to reflect on their own practices as educators while presenting a set of materials that they might also use in the classroom: for example, participants will consider how to negotiate personal and professional responsibilities, values, and standards when faced with ethical dilemmas. These materials encourage educators and their students to think about their approaches to work, to reflect on work that interests and excites them, and to consider the locus of meaning in their work.

### Agenda

#### I. Group Brainstorm

- Think of someone whose work you admire. What do you admire about them?
- List qualities and discussion

#### II. Interview: Investigating Professional Goals

- Divide into pairs and interview one another around five questions that focus on engagement in work.

Follow-up questions:

- Anything new, that you haven't considered before?
- Any parallels between your goals and the qualities that you admire in others (above)?

#### III. Introduction

- Brief introduction to the GoodWork Project and the GoodWork Toolkit.



#### IV. Meg case, “A Question of Identity”

-Read together out loud.

-Divide into groups, answer questions

-Come back together and ask:

1) In your discussion, is there anything that people would like to report – compelling, surprising, or any findings that you would like to share?

2) In the end, what was the bottom line, the deciding factor, for Meg?

#### V. Think about your own work

-On your own, read through and respond to 4 questions about a “good work” dilemma you face in your work.

- Come back together, ask for a few people to share.

- Probe with questions: Did you feel divided between responsibilities, torn between short/long term goals, why was that your bottom line?

#### VI. Revisit qualities of exemplars

-Often, when people are in difficult situations, it’s helpful to revisit what’s really important to them in their work – to revisit ideals, goals, why they originally took on their work or entered a specific profession. With that in mind, let’s for a minute revisit the qualities, traits that we admired in exemplary workers.

-Now, in thinking about your own work, are there qualities that are important to you that are not on the board? Do the qualities listed resonate for you? You might want to jot down what is most relevant for you – if helpful.

-Are the qualities that you value evident in how you made your difficult decision – if not, why?

#### VII. Questions/Taking Stock

#### VIII. Values sort

Discussion Questions:

-Did you discover differences or similarities between how you completed the Q-sort for yourself versus how you thought your peers might complete it? What are they? What do you make of them?

-Consider the values on these cards. Do any of them in particular resonate for you? What values do you most consider your own?

-Which of the values guide your approach to work? Your approach to relationships with colleagues? Your approach to other relationships?

-Are there any values that are important to you that are not listed? If so, what are they?

#### IX Evaluation