

Five Characteristics of a Good Work Ethic

Your work ethic is what you believe is the right thing to do on the job. Some people try to get by doing as little as possible, and others give it their all every day. Five ethical characteristics stand out as the most important for moving up the career ladder. You should apply these ethics in all your work.

Reliability

Reliability is part of a good work ethic. Reliable individuals do what they say. You can depend on them. They show up every day, arrive on time and complete all assignments. They stay after hours to turn out high-quality work and meet deadlines. They are dependable in every situation.

Dedication

Individuals with a good work ethic always try to perform their best. They are committed to their positions and are not eager to abandon their jobs quickly to move to something more exciting or different.

Productivity

Because they work at a consistently fast pace, individuals with a good work ethic usually are highly productive. They get more work done more quickly than others. They don't quit until they've completed their assigned tasks.

Cooperation

Individuals with good ethics put effort into working well with others. They interact cooperatively with teammates, even if they do not enjoy the working relationship or some of the people involved.

Character

Strong character and good values are basic to people with a good work ethic. Such individuals are self-disciplined, and push themselves to perform at an exceptional level. They are honest, which sets them apart from others with weaker character.

Action: Check yourself: On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you rate yourself for EACH of the five work ethics characteristics? (Give yourself a rating of 1-5 for reliability, a 1-5 rating for dedication, etc.) Then, describe how you demonstrate all five of these characteristics.