

Wasting Talents



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Purpose

To be aware of the talents and gifts that each person has.

To think about the responsibility of ourselves and society to develop and use our talents wisely.

Entrance of Pupils

A thought provoking slideshow introducing the theme of Wasting Talents for the pupils to enter assembly to (10 minutes)

Introduction

We are Unique

We are all totally individual, completely unique. We have things that we find easy to do and things that are more challenging. We have different characteristics—how we look, how we act, how we think and how we feel about things. Even identical twins are very different in what makes them, THEM.

All too often, we allow ourselves to dwell on what we can't do or what others can do better. Why do we compare ourselves to others when, in fact, we were never meant to be like everyone else?

Sometimes school can exaggerate this way of comparing ourselves. Often it concentrates on subjects: Maths, English, Art, Pe, Music, Geography etc and we can get the impression that being 'good' at these subjects is all that matters but in fact there are many, many other talents that are just as valuable.



4. Spatial Intelligence

Those who have heightened spatial intelligence have the ability to create, imagine and draw 2D and 3D images. This intelligence profile allows its group to imagine, create and see things that most others consider impossible. Professionals in gaming, architecture, multimedia and aerospace normally display a high level of spatial intelligence.

5. Musical Intelligence

Musical Intelligence is a rare kind of intelligence. People with this profile have the ability to listen to sound and music and identify different patterns and notes with ease. This intelligence group is usually known as having the “absolute or perfect pitch”. A person with musical intelligence can easily create harmonies and songs and can often learn to play an instrument alone from the simple knowledge of theory or by listening to a piece of music.



6. Interpersonal Intelligence

It is often said that people are born to be leaders. Those people are known to possess Interpersonal Intelligence. This group are practical people with a great sense of responsibility. They are calm in their ways, they know how to listen and speak but above all, they know how to use their own knowledge and power to influence people. Someone with Interpersonal Intelligence can easily identify the qualities in others and know how to bring that quality out.



7. Intrapersonal Intelligence

Intrapersonal Intelligence is a characteristic of someone that is deeply connected with themselves. This type of person is usually more reserved but at the same time commands great admiration from their peers. Among each of the seven types of intelligence, intrapersonal intelligence is considered the rarest.



Watch the short film about an autistic boy who brings happiness to everyone. Think about what his talent is and how he uses it for everyone's benefit.



Finding our talents

So how we find our own talents or gifts?

Firstly we can think about what we find easy, what comes naturally, what do we really enjoy doing. This is called SELF REFLECTION and we need to be honest with ourselves rather than over modest or over boastful.



Secondly we can really listen to what people tell us. What do our reports and teachers say about us? What aspects about us do our friends admire? What can you do that others wish they could do?

Thirdly, there are many types of test for different intelligences. Obviously we have some tests in schools, but there are groups like MENSA or multiple intelligence tests on line that we try to measure this type of ability.

Not Wasting Talents

There are a number of ways in which we can waste our talents. Many cultures have stories which exemplify this. In Christianity, we have the story of 'The Ten Talents.'

Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:14-30

(A talent in this story is a gold coin but of course it also describes gifts and abilities.)

"A man was going on a journey and called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five



more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'



"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned



I would have received it back with interest.

"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Parable of the Talents – Meaning

The master gave a considerable amount of money to each servant, in keeping with the servant's abilities. The first two servants used their talents widely and gained even more talents. They were rewarded accordingly. The third servant was lazy and hid his talent so that no one could see it or benefit from it. He lost what he had and was punished.

Think About People You May Know Who Waste Their Abilities

Some people have gifts that they choose to use to bad effect:

- ⇒ A talented entrepreneur chooses to deal in drugs
- ⇒ A skilled teenage leader heads up a gang of bullies or gets people to truant
- ⇒ A gifted footballer refuses to play for the school team as he/she believes the team are 'below' him/her
- ⇒ A super actor/singer refuses to get involved in the school play
- ⇒ A bright but negative student leads the mocking of others who want to work, put up their hands, do their best because he/she wants to 'dumb down' their learning

These people are robbing the world around them because they fail to use and develop gifts that could really help everyone else.



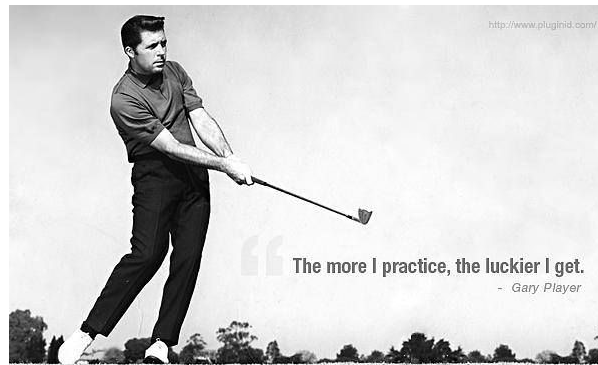
Watch this short film that features sportspeople, singers, artists and other famous people who has wasted their gifts.

1. Amy Winehouse	Singer/Song Writer	1983-2011	Died of alcoholic poisoning
2. Heath Ledger	Actor	1978—2008	Committed suicide
3. Lindsay Lohan	Actress	1986	Child star of films including 'The Parent Trap' and 'Mean Girls.' Addictions and bankruptcy
4. Kurt Cobain	Lead singer of Nirvana	1967 –1994	Committed suicide
5. Britney Spears	Singer	1981	Alcohol, drugs, bankruptcy, family issues
6. Paul Gascoigne	Footballer	1967	Alcohol, drugs, bankruptcy, family issues
7. Oscar Pistorius	Athlete	1986	Convicted of causing the death of his girlfriend
8. O J Simpson	American Footballer	1947	Responsible for the deaths of his ex wife and her friend
9. John-Michel Basquiat	Artist	1960-1988	Heroin Overdose
10. Macauley Culkin	Actor	1980	Alcohol, drugs, bankruptcy, family issues

However it's never too late to get back on the right path after years of wasting talents. For example, you might want to read about the life and journey of Tiger Woods, the famous golfer who lost his way for a while, but managed to get both his life and his talent for golf back on track.



Finally from one famous golfer to another, think about this quote from Gary Player:



The Bible Says

'You are the light of the world. A town on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Matthew 5: 14-16

Let's Pray

Dear Lord

Help me to recognise my talents and use them for the good of everyone.

Amen

Putting It Into Practice

Research the story of Tiger Woods and learn about his talent; his wasting of that gift; his efforts to put his life back in order.

Exit of Pupils

A thought provoking slideshow of the key issues raised in the assembly about the theme of Wasting Talents for the pupils to exit assembly to (10 minutes)



Collective Worship and Putting it into Practice for the Rest of the Week

Day 2

Dear God

Help me to recognise and appreciate the talents of others and be grateful for their contribution to helping my life be as positive as possible.

Amen

Create a news article about someone who has a special gift that they have developed and use for the good of others. It may be a hero of yours or simply someone you know.

Day 3

Dear God

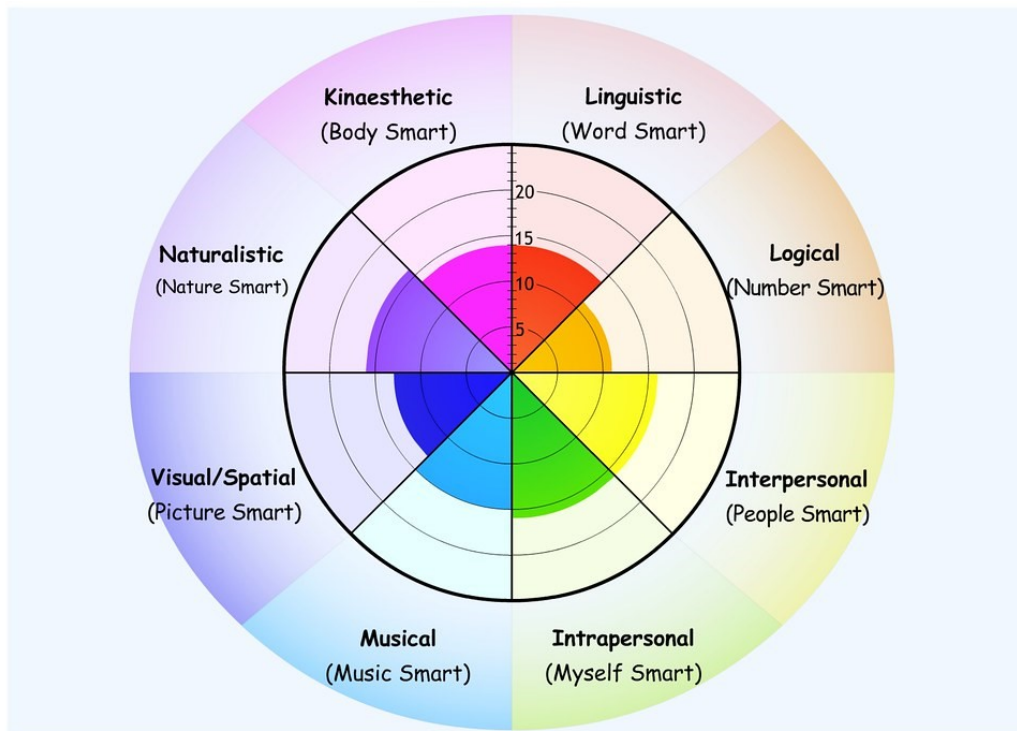
Today let me think about whether I do anything to 'dumb down' my gifts. It often takes hard work to improve my natural abilities and there are times that I would rather not bother. Give me the strength to develop my abilities.

Amen

Have a look at the Multiple Intelligence chart below. For each of the sections, think about how highly you would score yourself.

Then decide on area that either you think is a strength or a weakness and think about how you can go about improving that aspect.





Day 4

Dear God

At times, through jealousy, lack of understanding or the wish to appear important, I can do things which make it difficult for people to use and develop their talents. Help me to be happy for the gifts of others and create an environment where we can all grow positively.

Amen

Some argue that there are 7 multiple intelligences, whilst others believe there are 8, 9, 10, 11 or even 12.

Research the different ways in which these talents and gifts are identified. Which do you believe is the best description?

Day 5

Dear God

It is very human for us to be envious of others. Instead, help me to be grateful for what they can offer and thankful for my own special gifts.

Amen

Many careers have paths that require people with a whole variety of abilities and talents to help it run. Think about the NHS (National Health Service). From administrators, doctors, nurses, specialist practitioners to cleaners, cooks, porters, IT specialists, builders, drivers.....so many different talents are needed.

Thinking about your own particular talents, where might you fit into an organisation like this?

Research what type of career paths particularly require your own unique set of gifts.

