

Writing about Generosity

Generosity is the quality of being giving, kind, and helpful. Generous people tend to be more selfless than selfish.

When we are generous, we see the needs of others as equal to—and sometimes more important than—our own, and we give what we can: our time, our energy, space, care, gifts, and more. True generosity does not necessarily include an expectation of payback, acknowledgment, or praise. However, generosity can be contagious; one act of generosity can lead to many others!

Using the prompts below, explore generosity:

1. Describe a time when someone was generous with you, and explore how you felt throughout the experience: before you received the generosity, while you received the generosity, and afterward. Then, explore what you think led that person to be generous. What can motivate one person to be generous with another person?
2. Describe an example of a time when you were generous, and include what motivated you, along with how you felt during the experience. What is it like for you to reflect on this now? How might reflecting on generosity motivate you to be generous in the future?
3. Why might *sincerity* be important for generosity? How has your idea of someone's generosity changed when you learned about them and their motives?
4. Think about how you can be more sincere in your generosity toward others. Also, think about what you could do to encourage others to be generous.
 - Write out a plan to be generous during the holidays—*and beyond*—and work at fulfilling that plan! Take note of and reflect on your experiences. Is it ever difficult to be generous? Why is that? How can you still be sincere in your generosity even when it's difficult?

See ypsiwrites.com and Washtenaw.org/wishyouknew for additional information, writing prompts, workshops, and opportunities to engage!

