

Breaking Open the Smart & Good Report

I. Scan the **Table of Contents** (viii-xiii) to see the structure of the report.

- Front Matter
- Letter to the Reader (xiv)
- How to Read the Report (xvii)
- Schools Visited in the Smart & Good Study (xix)
- National Panels (xx)
- Executive Summary (xxi)
- Research Methodology (xxii)
- Principles of a Smart & Good School (xxv)

Ch 1 Performance and Moral Challenges Facing American High Schools (1-15)

Ch 2 Performance and Moral Character: The Integration of Excellence and Ethics (16-31)

Ch 3 The Ethical Learning Community (32-60)

Ch 4 The Professional Ethical Learning Community (61-83)

Ch 5 Fostering the 8 Strengths of Character (84-210)

Ch 6 Commonly Asked Questions about Smart & Good Schools (211-218)

Comprehensive Endnotes (219-227)

II. Learn Smart & Good's 2-Part Definition of Character: **Performance Character and Moral Character.**

1. Read p. 18, "Character's Two Essential Parts: Performance Character and Moral Character."
2. In writing, without looking at the text, complete the following sentences:
 - *Performance character is*
 - *Moral character is*
3. Share & compare your sentence completions with a partner. Formulate questions you have. (2 min)
4. Whole-group discussion with leader: Share sample completions; ask clarifying questions.

III. Learn the "**Principles of a Smart & Good High School**" (xxv-xxvi). This is the S & G "blueprint."

1. Read pp. xxv-xxvi, "Principles of a Smart & Good High School."
2. Study the diagram "Integrating Excellence and Ethics" (xxvii) that shows the big ideas of the Smart & Good framework and how they relate to each other.
3. Pair-Share with a partner: What is a clarifying question you have about these principles? (2 min.)
4. Whole group discussion with leader: Pose clarifying questions.

IV. Study the "**8 Strengths of Character**" Table on p. 23. These 8 Strengths operationally define performance character and moral character, providing framework of the desired developmental outcomes.

8 Strengths of Character Activity:

1. Form groups of 2's or 3's.
2. Individually, scan the Table of Contents, Ch. 5, "Fostering the 8 Strengths of Character" (pp. xii-xiii) to see the practices presented under each of the Strengths of Character.
3. Choose a Strength of Character that is of professional or personal interest to you. Under that Strength, choose a practice that especially interests you. (For example, a teacher who is responsible for leading an advisory group might select "Self-Disciplined Person," and, under that, the practice on advisories.
4. Read that section of the report (7 min.) (If you finish, continue reading about other practices related to that Strength of Character.)
5. Share with your partner or triad (2 min. each): What, for you, was valuable in the material you read? How could it help you in your professional or family life?

Character is power.—Booker T. Washington