



Greater Good in Education
SCIENCE-BASED PRACTICES FOR KINDER, HAPPIER SCHOOLS

SAMPLE LIVES ACCORDING TO ARISTOTLE

Below are some of Aristotle's "candidate lives" that he thought people might come up with when asked "what makes a good life?"

- A life that has been shaped predominantly around the pursuit of pleasure, of feelings and sensations that 'feel good.'
- A life that has been shaped predominantly around the pursuit of wealth and the acquisition of things.
- A life that has been predominantly shaped around the quest for status, respect, fame, influence.
- A life that has been shaped around the thirst for power—or having your way, bringing others to it, either by force, or by reasoned persuasion.
- A life that has been predominantly shaped around the search for knowledge.
- A life that has been shaped around ethical living, around how to live out morally virtuous activities—a life that has been marked by feeling, thinking, and acting well.