



Maimonides' Ladder of Tzedakah

The ladder below is presented in descending order, with the top rung being the most favorable way of giving tzedakah and the bottom rung being the least favorable way. Cut out the levels of tzedakah and distribute the slips to the class. Challenge students to arrange them in the appropriate order.

Enabling a person to become self-sufficient and not have a need for tzedakah, by providing him/her with a job or other means of financial support.

The giver does not know who receives the tzedakah and the recipient does not know the identity of the donor.

The giver knows to whom the tzedakah was given, but the recipient does not know the identity of the donor.

The recipient knows who donated the tzedakah, but the giver does not know who received it.

The giver gives directly to the recipient before being asked for tzedakah.

The donor gives graciously and sufficiently after being asked for tzedakah.

The donor gives cheerfully, but less than is appropriate.

The giver gives begrudgingly and less than needed.