

Classroom Management Strategies and Tips

The whole key to how you discipline students is to not let them know it is bothering you. Try to not let your lesson/teaching be disrupted by their off task behavior. You deal with it and then move on without blinking an eye. Remember, the more steps you have in your 'escalator', the more chances you allow the student to demonstrate on-task behavior.

Don't limit Classroom Management to negative behavior. You can also reinforce positive behavior. YOU have to know what YOU expect from the students. DON'T make them guess. Communicate those expectations very clearly for them. Use demos/handouts, etc. if you have to. Be prepared to follow through and above all apply your rules consistently and fairly. Remember, marks is not a long-term motivator nor deterrent.

Know which type of student you are dealing with to determine which strategy to apply. Students generally take 3 roles in a class:

1. **Leaders**—These students 'run' all facets of the group and initiate virtually all dialogue between members.
2. **Followers**—These students readily answer questions and participate, but usually only at the instigation of one of the leaders. They exert their internal need for leadership by sabotaging the group in some way, often unconsciously.
3. **Non-participants**—These students never offer information unless asked; they never volunteer for anything. However, they normally will do whatever task is assigned to them.

Steps to Escalating Intervention: (Always try to use a calm voice)

- Position yourself next to the student who is off task (Proximity). Just by the fact that you have come close to them will affect their behaviour. You can continue teaching your lesson without actually disrupting your lesson.
- Use the stare and glare. If you are on the other side of the room, a simple stare and glare at the person can stop the behaviour. If that doesn't work, then get their attention by calling their name and then stare. It's important to resume your teaching asap after you have done this.
- Address off task student(s) and use their name, change inflection for emphasis
- Be prepared to repeat a combination of the first 3 bullets.
- If you are in a class, you could write their name on the board, each time you have to talk to them, you add a checkmark or strike. You determine how many strikes before the next consequence.
- For emphasis, you can stop the class, direct the question "Help me understand what the problem is today" to the student. If the problem persists, ask the question again, and then say, "We can discuss this atI'll see you then". If you need to privately

conference with them, do so on their own time after class or school. It's important to resume your teaching ASAP after you have done this.

- Ask them how their behavior is supporting the learning of others in the class.
- Review your class expectations and see how they assess themselves. Especially good with PSR rubric. You have a copy in the Assessment package.
- Provide the student with an option: change behaviour or be prepared to move the student/separate the group who is being disruptive to another area of the class/ gym. When you give the students' choice, they have power over their decisions and actions. Positively reinforce the behavior soon after.
- Have the student follow you and record what you are saying so they can summarize for the class at the end.
- Time out/ sit out but allow return. Be aware this is generally not a great deterrent, especially for those repeat offenders.
- After school detention. Remember, every time you give a detention to a student, you also give yourself one!!
- Things to ask in a detention scenario: (depending on the seriousness, might be good to have a colleague record(write) down what happens and the responses.
 - Help me understand what happened today in class.
 - What do you think I expect of you?
 - What do you expect from me?
 - How did your actions help others in the class?
 - What should we do if this occurs again?
 - What can I expect from you in the next class?
- Essay on why student behaviour is disruptive and how they plan to address it (send home and get parents to sign it and file it for yourself)
- Get kids to call parents and explain why they are staying after school, ask to speak to the parent after
- Refer student to counsellor and/or school based team
- Set up a student contract
- Parent teacher meeting
- Take it up with the Vice Principal-be aware that the student will more than likely return to your class after this process depending on the seriousness of the behavior. Don't expect that they will be transferred out or suspended. Plan for what you will need to do for the student when they return. You may have to go through the whole process again. Document everything you do. Keep a paper trail!!!

This is a good resource to visit to get more information about the type of behavior the student is exhibiting.

<http://www.disciplinehelp.com/teacher/list.cfm?cause=All>