

Classroom Encounters

By Caleb Cheung

Here are some things that will inevitably come up in the classroom. Students will always test teachers during the first few weeks of school for fairness and consistency. It is best to be prepared and have procedures in place. Think about what you would or should do in each situation.

Tardies and Absences

What if a student...

1. is tardy? one minute? five minutes? five seconds? with five other students?
has a written excuse that looks forged? only has a verbal excuse? comes in disruptively?
2. is absent? misses a test? misses the first part of a multiple day assignment?

Minor Disruptions

What if a student...

3. has no materials for classwork? wants to sharpen a pencil during class?
4. needs to throw away trash? makes a mess on their table or floor?
5. says something valuable is missing? (wallet, bus pass...)
6. has a radio? walkman? pager or cell phone? What if it goes off during class?

Classwork

What if a student...

7. does not bring their homework?
8. does not have the skills to complete the assignment?
9. refuses to do the classwork?
10. claims they don't know they're failing the class?
11. cheats on a test? copies another student's homework or assignment?

Leaving the Classroom

What if a student...

12. wants to use the bathroom? says they have diarrhea? has her menstrual period?
13. wants to go to the office? wants to see the counselor? principal?
14. says they're sick and wants to see the nurse? cuts their finger?
15. wants to call home because he/she forgot their lunch money? class project?...
16. forgets something in the previous classroom? (purse, pencil, homework...)
17. wants to get a drink of water because they're thirsty? coughing? needs to take medicine?

Behavior

What if a student...

18. is chewing gum? is popping gum?
is eating sunflower seeds? is eating their lunch?
19. is putting on make-up? is combing their hair?
20. is talking while you are talking?
is drawing/doodling while you are talking?
passing notes? reading a book or magazine?
doing their homework that is due today?
mocks you while you are teaching?
21. calls you a racist? says you are unfair?
22. falls asleep in class?
23. has their underwear showing? has indecent pictures or words on their clothing?
24. comes in with their hood or a hat on? refuses to take it off?
25. steals from another student in class? steals from you? (money, pencil, pen...)
26. is cursing at you? is cursing at another student?
27. throws paper or spit balls at you? at another student?
28. starts arguing with another student? What if they start verbally abusing each other? Getting out of their seats and move towards each other? Start pushing each other? Fighting?
29. damages school property or another student's property? (writes on a table/wall/textbook, breaks a chair...)
30. comes to class looking angry? depressed? sick? drunk? on illicit drugs?
31. refuses to leave the classroom when you send them out on a referral?

Other

32. What if the copy machine is not working for the day?
33. What if any audio-visual equipment in your classroom is not working on a day you need it? (TV/VCR, overhead projector, tape player...)
34. What if you have to substitute during your conference period?
35. What if you call a parent about a problem and have a difficult conversation? What if they blame your teaching? or hang up on you?
36. What if a parent shows up during class unannounced and wants to talk about their child's grade or behavior? Criticizes your teaching in front of the class?
37. What if a student who does not belong in the class tries to come into your classroom? What if you don't know the student? What if it is someone from outside the school?