

Fifteen Classroom Control Measures

(Some better than others!)

- 1 Your physical appearance is important in making first impressions and forms, in some part, future respect students will show towards you.
- 2 Don't chastise the entire class for the bad actions of a few. Never preface your remarks with terms such as "class" or "students" unless the whole group is involved in inappropriate behavior. Chastising a whole class for the misbehavior of a few only tends to build resentment and in turn may make the situation worse.
- 3 Concern yourself with the students' physical welfare. Is the room too hot? Is the lighting poor? Is seating adequate? Is the hallway door open and people in the hallway making noise?
- 4 Be certain to acquaint yourself with school policies on discipline. Know your rights. It helps to know just how far the administration will back you in your efforts to maintain classroom discipline.
- 5 Whenever you make an assignment, make sure the students look at you. This makes them realize that what you assign them, and the work that you are doing, is important.
- 6 Never give an exam as punishment. Feel free, however, on giving unannounced quizzes.
- 7 Be sure to distinguish between simple horseplay and the more serious, malicious behaviors of students. Simple horseplay can easily be corrected; malicious behavior is cause for serious concern.
- 8 Be certain you can distinguish between students' enthusiasm for a subject (which may result in a large amount of excited talk), and true discipline problems. An instructor does not want to extinguish enthusiasm for the subject matter.
- 9 Decide when to go along with a gag. There are not any real guidelines for this, but the result of your decision may be critical.
- 10 Be conscious of any forms of familiarity from students. First names and "buddy-buddy" arrangements are not acceptable. Any teacher wants to be liked, but there is a big difference between being liked and not being respected.
- 11 Insist that students show respect toward you. They should address you as "Mr." or "Ms" or "Mrs."
- 12 Glare and stare at offending students if they disturb the class. If students are causing a commotion, stop your classroom activity. The silence ought to draw their attention. If not, ask the offending student(s) if they would like to share what seems to be an important discussion with the whole class.
- 13 Don't talk over group noise. Get students' attention before continuing.
- 14 Never argue with a class. The process of education and teaching is not a democracy.
- 15 You can place students in certain seats. You have that prerogative.