



NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO REQUESTS AND RULES

What can you do when you are confronted with students who are negative about rational requests and/or rules?

1. Try to use these guidelines when establishing classroom rules:
 - a) Involve your class in making up the rules.
 - b) State the rules positively.
 - c) Keep rules brief and to the point.
 - d) Review rules periodically with the class.
2. Arrange private meetings with students to discuss the problem in depth.
3. Ask the student(s) to write down the disturbing behaviour in a class logbook. Have them write some appropriate alternative ways of responding to negativity, for future reference.
4. Give students choices, in order to minimize negative reactions (e.g., "would you rather stay an extra ten minutes and finish the exercise before lunch, or go to lunch now and finish it when you come back?").
5. Try to have frequent, positive interaction in the class (e.g., praise, group projects, discussions, etc.).
6. Make sure students clearly understand what is expected from them. (In some cases, it's the student's confusion that causes oppositional behaviour.)
7. Handle difficult students individually outside the classroom, so that there is less chance that others will get involved.
8. Contact the parents, the Head, and/or the counsellor to discuss the student's inappropriate behaviour.