



Self-Management

Classroom Contract

Pre-Teaching/ Guiding Language:

Before accepting a job, internship, or even joining a club or a team, it's always best to understand what is expected of you. The same should be true of students in the classroom! Being open, transparent, and allowing students to have a voice in creating classroom expectations helps everyone feel included in classroom management. Additionally, it allows students to take on an added responsibility in maintaining a happy and healthy learning environment.

Creating a “classroom contract” with students is beneficial for a multitude of reasons:

1. **Clear Expectations-** When the “rules” set forth in the contract are written with the students involved and posted clearly in the classroom, it sets clear guidelines for students.
2. **Behavior Management-** Being able to easily reference the contract and sticking to it sets a fair and consistent implementation of rules.
3. **Self-Regulation-** By allowing students to aide in the creation of the classroom contract, we are giving students ownership of their behavior.
4. **Academic Transparency-** By clearly stating grading guidelines, academic procedures, and criteria for submitting work, we are setting clear expectations, which students are privy to and can reference on their own regard.

Creating a classroom contract is most effective at the begging of the school year or the start of a new semester. However, setting these standards with your students can be beneficial at any time.

Key Takeaways:

- Students will understand the expectations of them in their classroom.
- Students will take ownership of classroom rules and expectations.
- Students will increase their self-regulation of behaviors related to classroom rules.
- Students will increase their positive classroom behavior.

Duration + Materials:

- 30 minutes
- Chart paper or poster board
- Markers

Key Vocabulary:

- **Expectations-** A belief that someone will or should achieve something.
- **Transparent-** Having your thoughts, feelings, or motives easily perceived.
- **Regulation-** The action or process of regulating or being regulated.



Activity:

1. Teachers will use pre-teaching materials to introduce the idea of a classroom contract.
2. Brainstorm with your class (using the discussion questions) what is important for them when it comes to classroom expectations and rules.
3. Work as a class to agree on 7-10 “rules” to add into the contract.
 - a. Be sure to include academic expectations such as “We will hand in our work on time”, and behavior rules such as “I will raise my hand” or “I will respect my teacher and classmates”. Be clear and consistent with your expectations.
4. Once students have finished writing these rules, transfer them onto a new, clean sheet of chart paper or poster board.
5. Have all students sign the agreement and be sure to sign it yourself.
6. Hang the contract in a visible place in your classroom.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some expectations in our class that may unclear to you?
2. What are some ways you feel we can work together to keep our classroom culture positive?
3. What are some expectations you have of yourself? Your classmates? Your teachers?
4. What are some qualities of supportive learning environments?
5. What are some rules or expectations you feel comfortable committing to?

Reinforcement Activities:

1. When handing out work assignments and reminding students of deadlines be sure to reference your classroom contract.
2. Reiterate the main points of your classroom contract on tests, handouts, and other written materials.
3. Be sure to “practice what you preach” and follow the points on your contract as you teach.