



# Personal Responsibility

## That's My Job!

### Pre-Teaching/ Guiding Language:

Many people think that classroom jobs (or jobs held in out-of-school-time programs) are solely for elementary students. However, for high school students these roles are just as important. High school is a time when students are yearning for connection, searching for meaning, and exercising their newfound freedom. Oftentimes, this is through pushing boundaries, acting out, and testing the limits of what they can get away with.

Classroom or community jobs give students a reason and motivation to come to school, their after-school team or club, or their community organization, even when they might not want to. They provide a sense of responsibility and build confidence within their community and with their peers. Additional benefits of these jobs are:

1. They provide a unified sense of classroom community and culture.
  - a. Working together through added responsibilities gives everyone a part in creating a kind and supportive classroom community.
2. They give students opportunities to explore different interests.
  - a. Create unique job opportunities for students that will allow them to test out new skills. Just because you teach math doesn't mean you can't have a "classroom DJ" for dance breaks!
3. They provide a way to learn real life job application skills.
  - a. Requiring students to apply for jobs gives them a reason to create a resume and a cover letter and feel a sense of accomplishment when they receive a job. This also avoids assigning jobs to students who might not want them.

### Key Takeaways:

- Students will understand the importance of maintaining a classroom or community job.
- Students will take pride in having a role in their classroom or community.
- Students will seek out opportunities for additional responsibilities.

### Duration + Materials:

- 15 minutes

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Resume-** A brief account of a person's education, qualifications, and previous experience, typically sent with a job application.
- **Cover letter-** A letter sent with, and explaining the contents of, another document or parcel of goods.
- **Motivation-** The reason or reasons one has for acting or behaving in a particular way.



## Activity:

1. Teachers will use the pre-teaching language to introduce the idea of classroom or community jobs to students.
2. Teachers will decide what jobs they feel are necessary for their classroom or group. Examples are below:
  - a. DJ: This student oversees picking a song each day for the class to arrive and leave to.
  - b. Graphic Designer: This student helps design graphics to be used for power points or lessons and/or posters for the room.
  - c. Social Coordinator: This student seeks out opportunities for collaboration with other teachers and groups.
  - d. Zoologist: This student takes care of the class or group pet (if there is one).
  - e. Podcaster: This student produces one podcast (less than 5 minutes) on a topic pertaining to the class. Can use free programs online such as Garage Band or Soundtrap.
  - f. Yoga Instructor: This student will lead the class in one new yoga pose per week.
  - g. Botanist: This student will care for the classroom or group plants.
3. Teachers will inform students about the application process and provide them with where to find sample resumes and cover letters.
  - a. Examples are provided, but teachers can feel free to use any resumes or cover letters as long as identifying information has been removed.
4. Teachers can decide how long each job term is and then use discussion questions to have short “exit interviews” with each student when their term comes to an end.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What did you enjoy about your job?
2. What did you not enjoy about your job?
3. Would you apply to do this job again?
4. What advice would you give to the next person to do this job?
5. What could have been better about your job?

## Supplemental Materials:

1. Sample Resume: <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/resume-samples>
2. Sample Cover Letter: <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/cover-letter-samples>

## Reinforcement Activities:

1. Allow students adequate time per week to engage in their jobs.
2. Provide praise for students taking their jobs seriously.