



IDEAS to go...

Getting Students on Task, Immediately!

A starter activity at the beginning of class is a great classroom management tool. Each day, as students enter the classroom, they have five minutes to copy the question I've written on the board and answer it in 3–5 sentences. The questions are numbered and dated, and the students record their entries in an ongoing journal. Their work is reviewed at the end of the grading period and is worth 10 percent of their overall grade. Students say nothing during the first five minutes. This activity gets them on task immediately.

—Shared by *Melissa Scruggs, Georgia seventh-grade science teacher*

Discouraging Inappropriate Language

Students increasingly are expressing themselves in inappropriate ways. So, what does a teacher do to change students' use of words? I ask students why they used that word or expression. Usually, their answer is because they were angry or disgusted. My follow-up question is whether this was the angriest or most disgusted they had ever been. Invariably, the answer is no. I then ask what different words they used when they were more angry or disgusted. Often, the words were the same. Next, I discuss with the students the ineffectiveness of language when terms are used too often to describe too many feelings. Then, I work with them to develop a list of appropriate words to use in a variety of situations without reverting to gross words or derogatory terms.

—Shared by *Denneth Dvergsten, Minnesota educator*

Promoting Positive Behavior

To encourage cooperative behavior in the classroom, I send home "Good Notes" each week. These are simple check-off notes that I print on brightly colored paper (see sample). Parents expect this communication, so if they don't receive a note, they want to know why. Often our interchange helps nip the undesirable behavior in the bud.

—Shared by *Nancy Prince-Cohen, California educator*

"Good Note"

This week your child was:

- a very good listener
- very cooperative
- very friendly
- a good worker
- SUPER TERRIFIC!

Please give _____
an extra special hug!

classroom management

What classroom management ideas have worked for you? E-mail them to NewsEditor@kdp.org.

