

DISTURBING CLASS

WHAT TO DO

This is a Detention Learning Packet. It consists of three pages of text and a Response sheet that asks questions about what you did, why you did it, and what goals you must set to avoid the same problem in the future. Read the three pages and try to remember what you read. Then read the Response Sheet and write answers to the questions.

WHAT YOU DID AND WHY IT WAS WRONG

You are in detention because you disturbed the class. You made it difficult if not impossible for others to study or for your teacher to teach. The others in class could not concentrate on their work. By disturbing the class, you wasted everybody's time. That was wrong! You had no right to waste the time of your fellow students or your teacher. Each person's time is valuable. Nobody has a right to waste someone else's time. How do you feel when someone interrupts you when you're busy?

THREE STORIES ABOUT DISTURBING CLASS

KEVIN, THE CLASS CLOWN

Kevin is the class clown. That means that he can always be depended on to disturb class with some kind of joke or noise or stunt. When the other students settle down to work on their tests, Kevin makes funny noises so they can't concentrate. When the teacher is at the chalkboard, Kevin makes faces at other students. Sometimes he flies paper airplanes across the room, then tries to blame it on somebody else. When someone walks across the room, Kevin makes a noise for each step. Kevin is immature.

WHISPERING WILMA

Wilma loves to talk. She can't stay quiet. When the teacher is at the chalkboard, Wilma whispers to the student next to her. When someone is trying to give a report, you can always hear Wilma talking in the background. Even when her classmates try to get her to stop, she keeps right on talking. Sometimes, she gets other students in trouble. Nobody wants to sit next to Wilma in class, because she will start talking to them.

ROMERO AND JULIANNE

Julianne has had a crush on Romero all semester. Romero likes Julianne, too. Whenever the teacher has her back turned, Romero and Julianne write notes and pass them back and forth to each other. When the other students see this, they giggle and talk. Eventually, the whole class is watching Romero and Julianne instead of listening to the teacher. It has become a class joke. Romero and Julianne think only of each other. They don't care if they disturb the class.

WHY PEOPLE DISTURB CLASS

There are many reasons why people disturb classes. Some may be bored or unprepared for class. Others may have problems that keep them from understanding what the work is about, or they may be angry about something that happened outside of class. Still others may want attention or may simply enjoy making other people uncomfortable.

Kevin wants to be the center of attention. He wants everybody to look at him. For some reason, Kevin doesn't want to deal with the subject being taught in class. He tries to prevent his classmates from learning, and creates a situation in which it is impossible for others to concentrate.

Wilma likes to talk. Maybe she is nervous about not being able to do the work, and talks to get her mind off problems. Maybe she is just very expressive, and wants others to react to what she says. Wilma is a constant source of distraction, because people are too polite to tell her to be quiet.

Romero and Julianne think only about themselves and each other. They feel that their interest in each other is more important than the class. They have become emotionally dependent, and must constantly reassure each other about their affection. In thinking only about themselves, Romero and Julianne impose their wishes on the class. Their classmates are both angry and amused by them. The result is the same: nobody can do class work when Romero and Julianne are in the room. Romero and Julianne are not fair to the other students.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DISTURB THE CLASS

When you disturb the class, you interrupt the learning process. When people are trying to concentrate, you break their train of thought. Those who are trying to participate in a discussion are side-tracked. Students who are really interested in learning a subject find it impossible to learn. The classroom stops being a place of learning and becomes a stage where you perform your act. Everybody is getting tired of your act. It's time to get to work.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IN THE FUTURE

If you repeatedly disturb the class, something is wrong. You may have a problem similar to one described in the stories above, or something else is preventing you from concentrating on your class work. You may be depressed or angry or just so far behind that you have given up trying to catch up with the others.

You need to think about what makes you want to talk or bother others. When you have identified the causes of your misbehavior, you then need to set some goals. Having goals will help you overcome your problem of bothering others. The questions on the Response sheets will help you set these goals.

STUDENT RESPONSE PACKET # 5.1

DISTURBING CLASS

NAME _____

DATE _____

GRADE __ HOMEROOM _____

WHAT TO DO

Below are some questions about what you have read. These questions will help you learn why what you did was wrong and how you can avoid such problems in the future. Your teacher, a counselor, the principal, or your parents may read your answers. Your answers will not be graded.

Write your answers in the spaces below the questions. If there is not enough room, write on the backs of these sheets. Be neat, spell correctly, use good grammar, and write in complete sentences. If you don't understand what you are supposed to do, ask your detention supervisor.

When you finish, give the Learning Packet and your Response sheets to the detention supervisor and return to your desk. The supervisor will tell you when to leave.

1. You are in detention for disturbing class. What did you do?

2. Why did you disturb the class?

3. Have you disturbed classes before? If so, what did you do?
Why?

4. You have read three stories about disturbing class. How did Kevin disturb his class?

5. What did Wilma do to disturb her class?

6. In what way did Romero and Julianne disturb their class?

7. Why do you think Kevin, Wilma, Romero and Julianne disturbed their classes?

8. Write two goals that will help you stop disturbing your class.

STUDENT RESPONSE PACKET # 5.2

DISTURBING CLASS

NAME _____

DATE _____

GRADE __ HOMEROOM _____

WHAT TO DO

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Write your answers in the spaces below the questions. If there is not enough room, write on the backs of these sheets. Be neat, spell correctly, use good grammar, and write in complete sentences. If you don't understand what you are supposed to do, ask your detention supervisor.

When you finish, give the Learning Packet and your Response sheets to the detention supervisor and return to your desk. The supervisor will tell you when to leave.

1. You have disturbed a class again. What did you do this time?

2. Why did you disturb the class when you knew it was wrong? Be honest.

3. Were your reasons different this time, or were they the same as last time? Explain.

4. Why is it wrong to disturb a class? Are you being selfish?

5. You have read three stories about disturbing class. Write two goals to help Kevin stop disturbing class.

6. Write two goals for Wilma.

7. Write two goals for Romero and Julianne.

8. What two goals will help you stop disturbing class? Keep in mind the reasons you didn't achieve the last set of goals. Now write your two goals.