

LACK OF RESPECT FOR OTHERS

WHAT TO DO

This is a Detention Learning Packet. It consists of several 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 text 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 serving a detention because you have failed to show respect for the rights of others. Maybe you have not been respectful in the past. Learning to respect the rights of others is something we must learn if we are ever going to be considered grown up.

Showing respect for the rights of others is important. It means recognizing that other people have rights too! Being respectful also means that at times you are willing to let others have their way first. You do this to show other people that you can cooperate and be considerate. Making such sacrifices is a sign of growing up. It is the opposite of being self-centered: it is being thoughtful of others.

Here are three stories about people who did not respect the rights of others. Read them and see if you recognize yourself in them.

THREE STORIES ABOUT NOT RESPECTING OTHERS

NAME-CALLING NORMAN

Norman likes only people who are like himself. He doesn't care to be around people who are different. So Norman calls these people names. Several students in Norman's class weren't born in the United States. Jose is from Mexico. Sung Li is from Japan. Miya is from Poland.

Norman calls these students names behind their backs. He thinks this makes him look big and important. Little does he know! He ends up looking small.

It happens that Jose can hit a baseball better than Norman, Sung Li's grades are higher than Norman's, and Miya plays the violin like a concert master. But that doesn't bother Norman.

He just likes to call people names that put them down. It's the way he deals with people who are different. Norman doesn't respect the rights of others to be respected as human beings and to be free of name-calling. It's Norman's way of taking over and being in control.

DEBBIE AND DARLENE DISTURB THE CLASS

Debbie and Darlene are best friends. They do everything together. They come to school in the morning and go home together in the afternoon. They are in the same classes and activities. They eat lunch together.

Debbie and Darlene talk for hours on the telephone at night. Sometimes their parents need the phone, so they have to cut the conversation short. Then they try to finish it in class the next morning.

Debbie and Darlene's first class in the morning is history. It is a difficult class, but Mr. Turner works hard to help students learn. But he finds it difficult to teach the class because of Debbie and Darlene's constant interruptions and chatter.

Debbie and Darlene sit next to one another in class. They use every chance to whisper to each other. Sometimes they talk out loud. They laugh a lot. Debbie and Darlene also pass notes back and forth to each other. By bringing only one book to class, they can move their desks close together and share the book. Mr. Turner realizes that they do this only as an excuse to sit close to each other.

No one learns anything in first-period history class because of Debbie and Darlene. Mr. Turner wishes they were in different classes. He finds it hard to teach because they make such a disturbance. Debbie and Darlene don't do a good job of respecting the rights of others to learn. They are violating the rights of the teacher and the other students by being rude.

SAM TAKES UP ALL THE SPACE

Sam is a big person. He is tall, heavily-muscled, and large-boned. He isn't overweight; he's just big. Sam knows that he's big and takes advantage of it. Sam literally "throws his weight around."

On the school bus in the morning, Sam and his friends get on at the first stop. They sit in the back row and spread out their backpacks and books. They put their feet up on the seats in front of them. They laugh and talk and sometimes throw things. When the bus driver tells them to take their feet off the seat, they just laugh at him. Sam thinks that because he is bigger than the bus driver, he can do as he wishes.

In the cafeteria, Sam takes up two seats. He sits in one chair and puts his food in front of the empty seat next to him. He spreads out his lunch over two places instead of one.

In class, Sam sits with his legs stretched out in front of him. Anybody who sits near him has to step over Sam's legs. When there is an assembly, he gets to the auditorium early and spreads his jacket over the seat next to him. Then latecomers have to stand because there aren't enough seats. But Sam never offers to move his jacket so that someone else can have the seat.

Sam doesn't really want other people sitting around him so he makes it hard for people to sit next to him. Sam seems to lack respect for others. He's inconsiderate. Sam takes up all the space himself.

WHY PEOPLE DON'T RESPECT OTHERS

Little children think that the world revolves around them and that they are the center of the universe. As they grow up, they learn that other people also have rights. They learn that they are not the center of the universe, but only a small part of it.

Part of the process of growing up is learning to respect the rights of others. We learn that other people have likes and dislikes just as we do. We learn that people have such needs as a quiet place to study. When we don't give them a chance to have that quiet space, we show that we don't respect their rights. What we want to do becomes all-important. The message we send them is "You don't count. I'm the only one who matters." Other people try to avoid this type of person.

People send the message of "you don't count" in many ways. Norman uses racist and bad names for people who are different. That's Norman's way of saying that these people have no right to be different; they need to be just like him and his friends. Norman doesn't respect the right of people to be different, to be born in a different country, have different-sounding names, or look different from himself and his friends.

Debbie and Darlene don't respect the right of others to have peace and quiet when they study. For Debbie and Darlene, their conversation is all that counts. They don't stop to think that other people might want to learn history. They certainly don't care that Mr. Turner is trying to teach an interesting, informative lesson. Their conversation distracts him and makes it hard for him to teach. But Debbie and Darlene don't care. They are focused entirely on themselves.

Sam is a big guy who likes to take up all the space around him. He spreads out his possessions and "sits big" so that others have a hard time being around him. Sam doesn't recognize the rights of other people to have their space, too. Sam ends up taking two or three seats wherever he sits. Then latecomers have to stand. But Sam doesn't care. Sam thinks only of Sam.

People show that they don't respect the rights of others in other ways too. For example, they can:

- Block the halls or access to classrooms or drinking fountains

- Walk three or four abreast in the hall so that people can't get around them or have to get out of the way
- Lean against lockers or doors so that people can't get to them or through them
- Cut in line ahead of other people
- Make so much noise at lunch or during assembly that people around them can't enjoy themselves or learn anything

All these are ways in which people show that they don't respect the rights of others. They all send the message "You don't count. I'm the only one who matters."

WHAT HAPPENS WITH NO RESPECT

A school is a place to learn, develop skills, prepare for the future, work together and make friends. The school is what we call "a community." It is made up of people--students and teachers, counselors and principals, custodians and cafeteria workers, who all work together toward a common goal. They are trying to give students a chance to learn.

Communities are built on cooperation and trust. They don't work unless everyone is committed to working with other people and can trust others to treat them fairly. Those who don't respect the rights of others hurt the community. They make it hard for others to build a sense of purpose and trust.

Even one or two people can have a negative effect on the community that others have built. Name-calling Norman destroyed the good will and trust of his community by making slurs about the international students in his class. Darlene and Debbie made it impossible for anyone to learn in first-period class. Sam took up so much space that others sometimes couldn't find seats. None of these people was thinking about the rights of others. They also weren't thinking

about the school's need for cooperation from all. They were thinking only of themselves.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IN THE FUTURE

Everybody knows that not showing respect for the rights of others is bad. It is important now that you improve your ability to be more respectful and show better judgment. Try to analyze why and how you have failed in this regard and look for ways to improve.

This means that you can benefit from having some goals for yourself in this area. The questions on the Response sheets that follow will help you to develop these goals.

STUDENT RESPONSE PACKET # 14.1
LACK OF RESPECT FOR OTHERS

NAME _____

DATE _____

GRADE __ **HOMEROOM** _____

WHAT TO DO

Below are some questions about what you have read. These questions will help you learn why you get into trouble and how you can avoid getting into trouble 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 have not shown respect for the rights of others. What did you do that showed a lack of respect?

2. Explain why you did not show respect for the rights of others.

STUDENT RESPONSE PACKET # 14.2
LACK OF RESPECT FOR OTHERS

NAME _____

DATE _____

GRADE __ **HOMEROOM** _____

WHAT TO DO

Below are some questions about what you have read. These questions will help you learn why you get into trouble and how you can avoid getting into trouble 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 have failed to show respect for the rights of others again. What happened this time?

2. How would you feel if you were watching your favorite television show and the other people in the room started talking? Explain how the terms "cooperation" and "respect" go hand in hand.

3. What were you feeling or thinking at the time you were disrespectful?

4. You've read three stories about students who didn't respect the rights of others. Write a goal that will help Norman.

5. Write a goal for Debbie and Darlene.

6. Write a goal for Sam.

7. Last time, you wrote two goals for yourself. Why weren't you able to reach them?

8. Write two more goals for yourself. Remember the reasons why you didn't meet the goals last time.