

CUTTING 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 have been sent to detention for cutting class. This is not the first time you have cut class, but maybe it will be the last. Cutting class is serious because it takes you out of the learning process. We come to school to learn, develop skills, prepare for the future, work together, and make friends. When you cut class, you don't accomplish any of these goals.

THREE STORIES ABOUT CUTTING CLASS

DISGUSTED DONNA

Donna usually makes good grades without much effort, but she really has to work in her math class. She's not used to studying this hard. Today, Donna decided to skip class and go to the library to catch up on her work. She met a friend and spent the time talking. Now she's further behind than ever.

FAST FREDDY AND THE TRACK TEAM

Freddy is one of those students who is careless about his obligations to others. He will promise to do something, then not do it. Today, he was supposed to help Gloria give a report in class. But he decided to stay outside and watch the track team practice. Gloria had to give the report

alone, and Freddy's part of the report was not given. He let her down. He also let himself down.

HELEN AND HER HEARING

Helen has a hearing problem. She sits in the back of the classroom, and can't hear the teacher clearly. What's worse, she is afraid to tell anybody about her problem. Nobody knows that she can't hear well. She doesn't know that she can be helped. She is afraid that her classmates will make fun of her if they find out her hearing is not good. Sometimes, she gets so frustrated she just cuts class and sits in the library.

WHY PEOPLE CUT CLASS

Some people love going to class, and can't understand why anybody would want to miss class. Others, for a variety of reasons, don't like to go to class, and cut class every chance they get.

In Donna's case, it's part laziness and part frustration. She has always done well in class without much effort. Now that the subjects are getting harder, she has trouble keeping up. It's not that she's not smart--she just doesn't know how to study. In her frustration, instead of asking for help she skips class.

With Freddy, the problem is a lack of responsibility. He made a promise to Gloria, but when he became interested in watching the track team practice, he forgot about the report he was supposed to give with Gloria. Freddy doesn't do a good job of taking responsibility for his actions or meeting his obligations. Cutting class is just one more example of how Freddy is irresponsible.

Helen's reason for cutting classes is known only to Helen. She is afraid that people will make fun of her if they know she has trouble hearing. But until she tells someone, she can't be helped. You would think that Helen would have some friends she could trust, or would go to a counselor or the school nurse and explain her problem.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CUT CLASS

When you cut class, a number of things happen:

- You fall behind in your work.
- You miss the opportunity to learn.
- You separate yourself from your classmates and don't learn to work with them.
- You develop a reputation for being unreliable.
- A pattern of irresponsibility may begin that can follow you all your life.

None of these things help you, either in learning or working with others. They can only hurt you and prevent you from doing your best or preparing for life after graduation.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IN THE FUTURE

The first thing you need to do is to identify the reasons why you cut class--not just the obvious reasons, but the real reasons why you would rather cut class than learn. This is not always easy. Sometimes, we aren't honest with ourselves about why we do the things we do. Other times, we aren't aware of the consequences of our actions.

Once you've learned the reasons why you cut class, you will be able to set some goals that will help you make some changes about attending all of your classes. The questions you answer and the goals you set in the Response sheets will help you make regular class attendance an important part of your school day.

STUDENT RESPONSE PACKET # 3.1

CUTTING 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. What class did you cut? Approximately how many times have you cut this class?

2. Why did you cut this class?

STUDENT RESPONSE PACKET # 3.2

CUTTING CLASS

NAME _____

DATE _____

GRADE __ HOMEROOM _____

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1. You've cut class again! Which class did you cut? What did you miss?

2. How do you plan to make up the work you missed?

3. Why did you cut class this time? State the reason(s).

4. Why did you cut class before? List your reason(s).

5. You've read three stories about people who cut class. Write a goal that will help Donna not cut class again.

6. What advice can you give Freddy so that he doesn't skip class again?

7. What would you tell Helen so that she never deliberately misses another class?

8. Write two goals for yourself. Keep in mind the reasons you didn't reach the goals you set the last time.