

Ground Rules for Class Meetings

Materials needed:

- 8.5x11 sheet for each group (original at bottom of this document)
- Large Post-It sheet or sheet of big colored paper

- 1) Teachers:** Get class into whatever format will work best for discussion with your class (circle of desks, circle on the floor, etc.)
- 2) Teachers:** We have focused our last Class Meeting time on really getting to know each other and working together and me/us getting to know your STAR class. We're going to start focusing on our school's bullying prevention program soon. The purpose of our class meetings is to:
 - Talk about how we treat each other in and outside of school
 - Discuss situations where someone isn't treated as fairly as they deserve
 - Discuss how we are treating each other and how to be kinder, more respectful and more helpful to each other
 - Work together to help one another and prevent bullying at Waldon
 - Talk about other issues that are important to Waldon and our class

To make sure everyone gets a chance to say his or her opinions and feels comfortable in these class meetings, we will need a few ground rules.

We are going to work in small groups to talk about what those should be, and then we will come up with a class set of ground rules.

- 3) Teachers:** Divide class into groups of 4-5. Have groups spread out into different areas of the room. Each group should have a piece of paper (regular 8.5 x 11 paper is fine for this and you can use the one attached for convenience). Groups should discuss what rules they think should be included in the ground rules for Class Meetings.
- 4) Teachers:** Monitor groups for about 5-7 minutes or until they are able to get some ideas down on paper. Then, have groups come back together as a class.
- 5) Teachers:** Allow groups to stay seated within their groups. Start with a group and have them share one ground rule, ask the other groups to put a check next to the ground rule if they have the same one or something similar. Take turns going from group to group, each sharing one until everyone has voiced all their ideas.

After you have heard all of the suggestions, try to distill them down to 5 or 6 rules that will work for your class. *You may want to keep these suggested ground rules in mind and ask leading questions to get them to come up with these suggested ground rules in their own words. Or, state the rule and have them talk about what that means/what that should look like. Rules are going to be worded differently for each class.*

Rule #6 from the list below must be included in each classroom's set of rules.

Suggested ground rules:

1. We raise our hand when we want to say something.
2. Everyone has the right to be heard.
3. We let others speak without interrupting.
4. Everyone has a right to pass.
5. We can disagree without being disagreeable or saying mean things. No verbal or non-verbal "put-downs".
6. When talking about bullying or other problems between students, we don't mention names.

6) Teachers: Write your 6 ground rules on a large Post-it sheet or large sheet of colored paper to be displayed in your room.

It is important to keep it displayed to use as a reference during class meetings. It is always handy to point out the ground rules you ALL chose as a class should somebody violate the norms.

Group Members: _____

Make a list of ground rules you feel are important to respect while having a class meeting.

(Example: We believe when it is your turn to speak, everyone else should listen in order to show respect)

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