

Last week we looked at managing your classroom using [procedures](http://www.edutopia.org/blog/rules-routines-school-year-start-classroom-management). This week we will look at rules.

[Rules](http://www.edutopia.org/blog/5-critical-categories-of-rules-richard-curwin) are used to set limits. Your school has rules that set limits just as society has rules that set limits. When creating rules for your classroom, remember that you must be ready to administer consequences. Also remember that your rules should not repeat school rules. You are responsible for enforcing school rules, too. Rules should be written in the positive form whenever possible [see below].

With that in mind there are two types of [classroom rules](http://www.smartclassroommanagement.com/2011/08/06/effective-classroom-management-plan/): general rules and specific rules.

General rules:

* Respect others.
* Be polite and helpful.
* Keep the room/lab clean.

Specific rules, which can also include safety rules:

* Be in assigned seat with paper, pencil and assignment before the bell rings.
* Follow directions given by the teacher the first time they are given.
* Use lab equipment appropriately and safely.
* Do personal grooming outside of class.
* Treat others kindly and with respect and keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.

How many rules should you have for your classroom? Knowing that safety rules are separate from classroom rules, even though they may overlap, the [experts](https://www.thoughtco.com/foundation-of-good-classroom-management-3111075) say that you should never have more than five. If you need more than five, they should be grouped or posted with no more than three to five in any one place. Research with numbers says that people remember information in groups of three to five.

Some people call rules guidelines or expectations. Regardless of what they are called, rules are used to state specific behavior expectations, not what work you want performed. Use procedures for work-based expectations. Never be afraid to add or replace a rule as the need arises.

I have attached a classroom management checklist to help you walk through setting up classroom management.

November Basic ctYou.org Classroom Development professional development sessions will be offered in Stillwater. There are five different dates to choose from.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-ctyou-classroom-development-tickets-46154997841>