

We continue to learn about our students. We keep them engaged. We have procedures for most aspects of the class and rules that cover the rest. But what do we do when someone crosses the line? It is time to look at discipline plans. If you do not have a plan, then you plan to fail. No matter how much we plan, a time will come when we must use discipline.

What steps will we follow? The school will have some help in this area to get you started. As with rules, there should be only three to five steps in your discipline plan. What those steps are will depend on whether you teach middle school, high school or adults. They should start with a warning and progress based on the age of the student and what you can do within your classroom/lab. A generic age discipline plan might look like the following:

* First time: Give a warning.
* Second time: Talk with instructor [outside of classroom, after class, in back of room, in lab]; may give detention.
* Third time: Make contact with a parent [for adults this might mean a conference that includes an administrator]; may take corrective action or initiate a behavior contract.

When you have to discipline, remember to discipline with grace. Remember to speak with respect and handle situations privately and not when you are furious.

Your discipline plan should also include rewards, but don’t forget that the best reward is the satisfaction of a job well done. Positive rewards will also vary with age and with what your classroom and school will allow. Below is a generic list that will vary by divisions and age:

* Continue to participate in class projects.
* Opportunity to participate in CTSOs.
* Leadership responsibilities.

The question arises; Should I discipline a student for inattentiveness? While it feels like inattentive students are disrespecting you or your presentation, you have to ask your self are they interfering with your ability to teach or the other students’ ability to learn. Many things could cause inattentiveness, and some are out of your control.

The main thing to remember is that if you have to send a student out of your room for discipline, you have lost control of and a relationship with that student.

November Basic ctYou.org Classroom Development professional development sessions will be offered in Stillwater. Choose from five different dates.

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