

Over the years, teachers have looked for the magic activity that will automatically engage all students: the filmstrip, the video, the computer, robots -- the list goes on and on. They all came to the realization, however, that there is no magic activity. The reality is that some students have become [disengaged](https://www.edutopia.org/blog/reaching-quiet-disengaged-struggling-troublemaking-students-david-cutler) through no fault of the teacher, but the teacher still has to re-engage them in the class.

Re-engaging students may take some time, and you should not be afraid to involve a colleague or an administrator. Some of the steps may look similar to a discipline plan:

* Discover the student’s perception of the problem. Find a location where the student feels free to talk openly about becoming disengaged.
* Reframe CTE learning. You may have to reframe your role as a coach to help the student attain skills that will lead to job placement. Try to use specific examples learned from the student’s perception of the problem.
* Renegotiate involvement in CTE learning. The renegotiation is similar to a discipline contract. It will establish behavior boundaries for the student and the teacher that will help the student to become a part of the class again and function with you and the other students.
* Re-establish and maintain the CTE classroom relationship. The real work to foster a sense of trust and open communication between you and the student begins here to prevent further disengagement.

As a CTE teacher, you will also have to make sure that the other students are not making the disengaged student feel devalued or worthless to the class or a project.