

Last time we looked at beginning with the end in mind. Following that train of thought, I have heard well-intentioned administrators and teachers tell new teachers that they need to learn to pick their battles. I would strongly disagree; it should never be a battle. As we went into detail last year, you should have established class norms/rules, and for everything else, you should have a process or procedure.

Trying to pick your battles means that you are looking for a battle. It also means that you have chosen not follow your classroom management plan by choosing to ignore some forms of misbehavior or students not following a procedure. Either way it sets you up to look like you are wishy-washy or just giving up on some students.

Once you have shown the class that you are being inconsistent, then you will start seeing those good students making bad choices, knowing that you have already chosen to ignore it. I know it might make you feel like a stickler for doing things right, but it has to be the same mindset that is used for safety. You need to remember that holding students accountable for the little things, as well as the big things, puts them in charge of managing their own behavior.

This doesn’t mean that you have to fight every battle. It means that you don’t fight any battle at all. Instead, you simply follow through on your promise of doing what you said you would do in the classroom discipline plan.

Being insistent about procedures, kindness, neatness and every other detail that affects your classroom and lab’s flow of learning wards off bigger and more stressful misbehavior.

Now with all this in mind, don’t be a micro manager with success. When students are engaged and learning, resist the urge to jump in and make sure they are doing everything correctly. Never interfere with success; let them think, build, create, fail and overcome without you. However, be ready to insert yourself into any behavior that disrupts the student’s successful flow of learning.

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

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