

Creating a Respectful Environment

Top Ten Tips and Tricks

Project Hope Staff and Community

1. Create ground rules *together*.
2. If people forget class rules, quietly pass them a card reminding them.
3. Hold community meetings so people get to know each other and develop a sense of being invested in each other's success.
4. Ask everyone to write down affirmations. Read them at the community meeting.
5. Post a reflection question on Monday. On Friday before the weekly meeting, students and staff write responses. Those who want to share their reflection at the community meeting, do so. People listen but do not comment.
6. Students may arrive at class up to 5 minutes late; after that, they must speak to their educational advocate and then wait in the foyer or kitchen until the beginning of the next class.
7. Use Velcro to post a number on the legs of classroom tables. Each number indicates a different chore. Students know what chore to do based on the number of their table.
8. Homework assignments for all classes are posted on boards located in a central place.
9. The community has a new vocabulary word each week. The word of the week is posted in the foyer and we ask all staff to try to use the word as much as possible!
10. Twice a month at our community meeting we give out Good News Awards. At some point during our 11-week cycle of classes, each student is recognized for some stellar achievement or action that might otherwise go unnoticed. For example:
 - for her unflappable demeanor when faced with repeated editing requirements
 - for bravely stepping up to meet a variety of math challenges at the board



R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Read this poem by Luís Valdez. How would you summarize it? Do you agree with his main point? Why or why not?

What does it look like, when you respect yourself? What about when you don't? Ditto for others.

Listen to "Respect" by Aretha Franklin. Find the lyrics and read them as you are listening. Write your own song or poem about respect.

Poem

Tú eres mi otro yo.
 Si te hago daño a ti,
 Me hago daño a mí mismo.
 Sí te amo y respeto,
 Me amo y respeto yo.
 You are my other me.
 If I do harm to you,
 I do harm to myself.
 If I love and respect you,
 I love and respect myself.