Top 16 Classroom Challenges

See classroom challenges as opportunities! Use this collection of challenges—and the resources that address them—as a path to positive classroom culture and sustainable student growth.

Bullying and Unkind Behaviors
Focus on building relationships, empathy, and collaboration competencies to reduce bullying and unkind behaviors, such as name-calling, excluding others, gossiping, etc.

Low Work Completion or Substandard Quality
Help students improve the quality of their work through higher-order thinking, self-reflection, and connecting learning to things that matter to them.

Disorganization
Maximize time and energy by helping students organize their belongings, priorities, and time through personal management competencies.

Not Thinking Before Acting or Speaking
Support students in developing vision and self-regulation competencies, so they can pause long enough to consider desired results and define outcomes before they act.

Lack of Collaboration
Strengthen collaboration by pre-teaching needed interpersonal leadership competencies ahead of structured small-group learning or informally during independent time.

Ignoring or Not Following Instructions
Promote focus and increase engagement by inviting student voice, using student-led learning strategies, and leveraging important planning tools.

Low Trust With Self or Others
Cultivate self-trust and relationship trust by inviting students to keep promises, act with honesty, apologize to repair trust, and apply other important Trust Behaviors.

Excessive Talking or Interrupting
Invite students to practice Empathic Listening and self-regulation to promote more effective communication competencies.

Increased Anxiety and Stress
Connect students to whole-person wellness strategies that help them practice balanced renewal in their body, mind, heart, and spirit.

Lack of Motivation or Non-Participation
Foster a deep sense of purpose by inviting students to visualize their future, set goals, and connect with others using student-led learning.

Giving Up
Build resilience with practice, strengthen maximizing paradigms about worth and potential, and inspire students to show up for themselves and others.

Hurtful or Unhelpful Feedback
Create a classroom culture where learners value feedback and know how to deliver positive and instructive feedback that is kind, helpful, and specific.

Messy Classroom or Damaging Materials and/or the Environment
Create opportunities for students to actively contribute to the physical environment in positive ways that build personal responsibility, pride, and a sense of community.

Not Staying on Task
Increase the amount of time that students are engaged in a task by incorporating time-management tools, strategies to stay focused, and reflective practices.

Lateness and Tardiness
Motivate students to arrive at school on time through leadership roles and opportunities to engage in fun, meaningful learning experiences. Use goal-achievement strategies to track and celebrate progress.

Conflicts and Arguing
Support students in resolving disagreements through healthy conflict resolution strategies, and empower students to share their voice in ways that demonstrate both courage and consideration.

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