

Consequences for Breaking Rules

Teacher Instructions

1. *Make sure the consequences increase in severity for each infraction.* In the example of Consequences for Breaking Rules, receiving a demerit is not as dramatic as having to write a list of solutions for a problem, which is not as severe as having detention.
2. *For the rules that help students be prepared to learn, set up specific procedures to follow if the rule is broken so students are not rewarded for inappropriate choices.*
 - Rule: Bring required books and materials to every class. Procedure: Check out these materials from the teacher.
2. *Decide the time frame for the consequence system.* Determine whether you want the system to be weekly, biweekly, monthly, or by grading period. Middle school students or a class with multiple issues might require a weekly system. For example, a student who arrives late on Monday would receive a warning. If the same student does not bring a required book on Wednesday, he or she would have to write a list of solutions for not arriving in class prepared. If the same student then breaks a rule later in the week, he or she would be put on detention.
4. *If you decide to include rule-specific consequences, make sure each consequence suits the broken rule.* In the following example, the class time is made up, so students are not rewarded for not being ready to work. The purpose of the consequence is to encourage students to be in their seats and ready to work when the bell rings.
 - Rule: Be in your assigned seat and ready to work when the bell rings.
Consequence: Make up missed class time when late or needing to take class time to organize materials.
5. *Check for consequences that might reward misconduct.* For example, suppose a student comes to class without books and materials. An inappropriate consequence might be to have the student do without these materials for the class period because that might be just what the student wants. How can he or she work without the materials? By having a procedure for dealing with missing materials, such as checking out missing items, the student is not rewarded for misconduct.

Consequences for Breaking Rules

- First Offense:** Receive a warning.
- Second Offense:** Write a list of solutions for the problem.
- Third Offense:** Receive detention.
- Fourth Offense:** Write an action plan and make a phone call to parents.
- Fifth Offense:** Conference with parents and teacher at school.