

BEING A RESPECTED TEACHER

by:

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Suppose you are just starting in the field of education. In that case, I strongly advise you to steer clear of the error often cited as the one that may do the most significant damage to your professional reputation. You are most likely curious about what went wrong here. It is, without a doubt, an example of hypocrisy. Ouch! This may seem harsh, but I ask that you kindly bear with me while I explain.

One of the issues I am asked the most often about during my workshops for teachers is, "What can we do to win the respect of our students?" To put it another way, several educators think that a sizeable percentage of students disrespect their instructors, participate in disruptive conduct, and "act out" with little concern for the class or their fellow students. When you ask me this question, the first thing that comes to mind is the following: "What have you done to earn their respect?" (Can you tell me how you earned their respect?)

The fact of the issue is that things have progressed in a new direction. The days are long gone when a teacher could go into a classroom and expect pupils and their parents to respect them immediately. We cannot afford to educate pupils in the same way that our professors did "back in the day" because, in today's environment, strong values are becoming less prominent while increasing levels of self-centeredness are getting more widespread. Working hard is the only way to get respect in this world.

Teachers are widely acknowledged as significant role models for children's conduct while they are still in childhood (Cheung, 2020). Establishing yourself as a positive role model for the sort of person your students want to be is one of the most

efficient ways to earn the respect of your students in the classroom. To put it another way, if your pupils are not interested in "emulating" you, there is no need for you to "be present" in the classroom. Let's move on to the next topic and speak about how important it is to be genuine. Even if they don't come right out and say it, students will see us as hypocrites if we urge them to succeed without first accomplishing it ourselves. As a direct result, our credibility in the classroom has suffered.

In my opinion, other people should work hard to get the same opportunities that we, as educators, have. I am not referring to having a lot of financial belongings, being in a position of authority, or giving off the impression that you are distinguished; instead, I am referring to having great character. You can't buy a character with cash, but it's something that everyone admires and appreciates, even if they don't like you personally. Character is something that can't be purchased. This is one of the most challenging aspects of teaching that we, as educators, need to acquire and perfect, even though it is one of the essential components of effective instruction.

According to the research findings (Thompson, 2018), students put a high value on being respected by their instructors and judge the degree to which their instructors respect them primarily based on their attention listening. Students' perceptions of the quality of the leadership at their schools and the teaching and learning environment were significantly influenced by the degree to which the students felt that they were respected.

Unfortunately, the moment we (as teachers) walk into a classroom or stand in front of a group of students, particularly those in middle school or high school, they are already "sizing us up" to determine how they will behave toward us and how we will react to them. This is especially true for students in middle school and high school. If you don't believe me, it's probably because you've never been a public school teacher or administrator.

References:

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Thompson, C. S. (2018). The Construct of 'Respect' in Teacher-Student Relationships: Exploring Dimensions of Ethics of Care and Sustainable. *Journal of Leadership Education*, 17(3), 42-60. <https://doi.org/10.12806/v17/i3/r3>