**Everyone Has Rules**

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**TOPIC DESCRIPTORS: Rules**

**STRATEGIES: 1. Brainstorming 2. Role playing 3. Listing**

**GRADES: 4,5,6**

**INTRODUCTION: This lesson is designed to help students understand why people who work, play, and live together need to follow rules.**

**OBJECTIVES:**

* **Students will develop awareness of the necessity for rules.**
* **Students will use logic to decide what rules will make the classroom have a learning and caring atmosphere.**
* **Students will learn that the choices they make will have consequences.**

**PROCEDURE: Begin the lesson by asking students the following questions:**

**1. What is your attitude toward rules?**   
**2. What is a consequence?**   
**3. How often do you think about the consequences when you are making a decision?**   
**4. On a scale of 1-10, how responsible a person are you?**

**ACTIVITY 1: Adults have many rules to follow in their jobs. Usually, before the first day of work with a new company, a Worker receives a book of the company rules. These rules help the worker know the company better. They help the worker get along with the other workers. Knowing the rules also helps the worker to make better choices and to do a better job.**

**Divide a sheet of paper in half, lengthwise. On the left-hand side of the paper, list rules that children have to obey. On the right, list rules that adults have to obey. Discuss how these rules are the same. Discuss how they are different.**

**(If you have a faculty handbook of rules, share it with your students.)**

**ACTIVITY 2:**

**Every school has its own rules. These rules help teachers and students know what is expected of them. These rules keep order and make sure things run smoothly. They also act as guides in helping students make good choices.**

**Brainstorm `areas' of the school where certain rules apply such as the library, the lunchroom, the hallways, the playground, etc., and write these on the board. Next, using "Activity 2 Worksheet," assign each student one of the areas listed and allow him/her a few minutes to fill in the sheet.**

**ACTIVITY 3:**

**Every choice has a consequence. A consequence is something that results from your choices or actions. Some choices are easy to make. Others are difficult. That is why it is important to have rules, or guidelines. Rules can help you make good choices.**

**Brainstorm a list of rules for the classroom that will help it to be a place where learning, fun, caring, and respect are carried on. Also, decide on the consequences for breaking any of the classroom rules.**

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:**

**Make a list of five rules that must be followed in your family. Then, in small groups, make up a short play that would show what would happen if nobody followed these rules. Perform these plays for the class.**

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:**

**With two or three other students, make up a story that has to do with making a choice. The choice may involve cheating, stealing, disobeying, or hurting someone. Show the consequences of the choice. Share the story with the class.**

**HOMEWORK ACTIVITY:**

**Share with your family what you have learned about choices and consequences. Ask your mom or dad if they can remember a time in their lives when they broke a rule and learned a lesson "the hard way." What were the consequences for their choices?**

**ACTIVITY 2 WORKSHEET**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Area Chosen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Write one rule for this area.**

**Is it a good rule? Why or why not?**

**How did this rule come about?**

**What or whom does this rule protect?**

**What would be a good consequence for breaking this rule?**