

EDUC 335 Reading in the Content Field: Secondary

Concepts addressed:

USING NATURAL AND LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES

- Natural consequences are the experiences that naturally follow a choice or behavior.
- Logical consequences are consequences chosen to follow behaviors that violate the acceptable behavior within the classroom.

Classroom management involves establishing rules inclusive of consequences for instances where rules are broken or classroom behavior is inappropriate or unacceptable. Consequences for breaking rules should be natural and logical because this will help students to learn that they are responsible for the consequences of their behavior and thus are responsible for controlling their own behavior.

Consequences for inappropriate classroom behavior should move from less to more severe. The following continuum outlines a logical flow of teacher response to inappropriate or off-task student behavior:

- Start with a warning or cueing that communicates to the student that his/her behavior is unacceptable. This is best accomplished by the teacher continuing to teach the lesson but circulating around the classroom, pausing for a few seconds in front of the disruptive student's desk to let the student know you are aware of the off-task behavior-you are "with-it."
- It may also be effective at this time to verbally reinforce a student who is exhibiting on-task behavior-ripple effect.
- If the off-task behavior persists, indicating a positive consequence of on task behavior such as, "as soon as you get your work done, you can have free computer time or game time" might work.
- If none of the above worked even after reminding the student of what the rules are and what the consequences of breaking them could be, a student teacher conference is in order to discuss the behavior. The conference should take place outside of the class meeting time.
- If the inappropriate behavior persists, the next logical step would be to involve the parents/guardians by placing a call to the student's parent/guardian to discuss the area of concern.
- If the behavior is an ongoing disturbance to the class, it is imperative to have a face-to-face parent-teacher-student conference.
- If those attempts are still unsuccessful, refer the student to the guidance counselor or the principal.

The following consequences listed above should be communicated to students so they are aware of them. To be effective, consequences must be applied consistently and should

never be harmful physically or psychologically to the student. When they are invoked, the student should understand that he has chosen them by misbehaving.

A final note: Teachers should try as hard as possible to solve the behavior problem in the classroom without having to seek outside assistance. However, when all else fails, enlist the aid of your building principal or counselor.