

ED 211-1 Introduction to teaching

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Reflection Harry Wong Video #3

I. Summary:

The subject of this video concerns the importance of having classroom procedures and disciplinary actions. These are vital to effective classroom management. As Mr. Wong states, "The number one problem in the classroom is the lack of procedures and routines". He goes on to explain what procedures and discipline are, and gives recommendations on how to implement them.

In order for students to take the procedures and disciplinary actions seriously, they have to see the classroom as a professional setting and the teacher as an effective leader. One of the first things students notice in Mr. Wong's classroom is a sign which states, "The teacher in this room is a professional with the required training certification and dedication necessary to provide a quality education. To all students who enter, the subject is excellence." He tells students that he runs a fun dynamic class and promises them that they will thank him 25 years later, and that they will succeed this year. He adds that, in order for them to succeed and for the class to be fun, he needs to have an orderly environment.

In order for there to be an orderly environment throughout the school year, students need to learn the procedures and disciplinary plan within the first few days of school. They are posted on the wall where students can easily see them and broken

down as such: classroom procedures, consequences and rewards. Two copies are given to the student, one to put in their binder and keep and one to take home. This is so parents know, and that he has their understanding and support. Additionally the front office gets a copy.

It is up to the teacher to determine what those procedures, consequences, and rewards are. Mr. Wong recommends that they be short, three to five rules which are easy to remember. the gist of the consequence and reward part is that there will be consequences for bad behavior and rewards for good. In the book he defines "rules" as- what the student is expected to follow; consequences as- what the student encounters if the rule is broken; and rewards as- what the student receives for appropriate behavior. The underlying idea is, if you follow these procedures, you will succeed.

In the video Mr. Wong likes to call them procedures instead of rules. As he puts it, "A rule is a dare to be broken, whereas, a procedure is not. A procedure is a do; a step to be learned." I noticed in the book, he refers to them as rules. I scanned the pages to see if he distinguishes between rules and procedures. On page 173 he defines procedure as: the way people function in an acceptable and organized manner. On pages 149-152, he describes rules as, something students are expected to follow, They are used to set limits, directions and boundaries. There are specific and general rules.

Though it may sound harsh, students actually enjoy having procedures. Having the structure makes the class comfortable and provides students a learning

environment in which they can thrive. When procedures are implemented within the first week, they very quickly become routines and classroom management is at its peak.

Mr. Wong does not go into great detail about specific rules/ guidelines, consequences and rewards in the video but refers to chapters 18 and 19 in the book instead. He does offer these pointers: Wait for the teacher to dismiss the class, not the bell. "The bell system is for the teacher, not the student. Ignore the bell. The teacher will tell you when you are dismissed."

Teach students classroom procedures and routines. Have them practice them over and over again. It is important that they rehearse this until it becomes routine.

II. Professional Reflection

The video was just an overview. The chapter will go into more detail. I am looking forward to hearing more about specific ideas. It makes a lot of sense to have rules/ procedures consequences and rewards to run an effective classroom.

III. Personal Reflection

I biggest AHA moment was in understanding the importance of establishing these procedures early on. Also, that students are more comfortable in a room where the guidelines are clearly established. It is reassuring to know that this actually works towards creating a comfortable, productive learning environment rather than an oppressive one.

IV. Comments

None

V. Questions

None