



Many teachers view misbehavior as an interruption to their teaching, however, dealing with behavior problems is *part* of a teacher's job. In addition to teaching academics, teachers must deal with behavior issues and teach appropriate behavior. There are many different reasons behind students' misbehavior, including the need for attention, power, revenge and feeling inadequate. Attention-seeking students and Power-Seeking students are the most common types of students who cause disruptions in class.

When dealing with Attention-Seeking students, do not squash the need for attention, rather meet the need in a positive way. One strategy to use with attention seekers is to offer all students the opportunity to demonstrate a talent for 30 seconds to 1 minute at the beginning or end of class. Alternate students who want to show their talent and select two students per class, one randomly selected and the other an attention seeking student. Another strategy to meet the needs of Attention-Seeking students is to give them a job, however, do not give them a serious job. Common mistakes with Attention-Seeking students are to call out their name in a negative way, ignore them or punish them.

Power-Seeking students will do things just to see the teacher's reaction. Power-Seeking students will choose a consequence just to see the teacher lose control. They will refuse to follow instructions just to lure a teacher into a power struggle. It is important for teachers to avoid power struggles by ignoring the behavior temporarily, if possible. Teachers should address the behavior later in the day or the next day to ensure they react with skill rather than emotion. If a teacher realizes they are in a power struggle, they should immediately "drop the rope," and ask for a redo.

"Power kids are fisherman, don't take the bait," (Brittingham, 2019)

Silence is power and strength. It takes strength not to react when students attack you personally, so think before you speak.