

Eating, Sleeping, Belching and other things



you don't need in the
classroom



“I've been
teaching 26
years and I've
never had to
deal with
anything like this
before!”



Incivility is on the Rise



- U.S. News & World Report survey of adult Americans:
 - 90% see incivility as a serious social problem
 - 78% think incivility is worse than it was a decade ago

In a national survey of Counseling Center directors, 85% of counselors reported seeing an increase in students with severe psychological problems over the last five years.

Source: Taylor, S.S. (2002)
"Mental Cases," *Community College Weekly*, Vol. 15(2), 7-8.

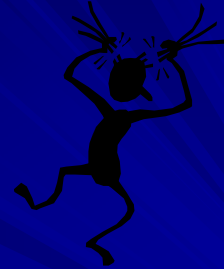
Disruptive Classroom Behavior is Conduct that Significantly:

- Interferes with teaching and learning
- Detracts from the educational process
- Often annoys both the professor and classmates

Typically, students who are being disruptive or acting out in a bizarre way are doing so for a variety of reasons not related to a psychological disability.

Disruptive behaviors range on a continuum from less severe . . .

- Inappropriate comments
- Monopolizing conversation
- “Know it all” attitude
- Snoozing in class
- Coming late / leaving early
- Cell phone use



. . . to more severe behavior

- Verbal abuse, intimidation
- Shouting, profanity
- Threats, stalking
- Physical aggression
- Throwing objects
- Refusing to leave



Disruptive and Dishonest Millennial Students

- Consumer mentality
 - “I want it NOW!”
 - “I pay your salary.”
- High technology – low touch; limited social skills
- Levels of stress, anxiety, parental pressure are increasing
- Protected from consequences – they’re all “special”
- A degree means more than an education
- Cheating is like speeding – no big deal, everybody does it, won’t get caught

Disruptive and Dishonest Non-traditional Students

- Under prepared
- Personal, financial, family stress
- Expert on everything
- Overwhelming time commitments

Basic classroom management techniques can effectively prevent and curtail most disruptive behavior and decrease cheating.



Be Proactive!

- Include academic and behavioral expectations on course syllabus
- Behavioral Expectations
 - Turn off cell phone
 - Punctuality; attendance; participation
 - No side conversations
 - No sleeping, eating
 - No reading unrelated materials or using lap top
 - Guidelines for civil discussion

Maintaining Classroom Decorum

- Remind students to take turns talking
- Make eye contact with students talking, stand by them, pause until everyone quiets down
- Ask for everyone's undivided attention

- Recognize upset student's feelings and move on.
- "It's fine to disagree. What do other's think?"
- Learn names. Call on students
- Vary teaching methods.



Disruptive students often don't realize they're bothering others. Most respond well to a firm, but friendly conversation after class.

Early Intervention

- Define disruptive behavior
- Explain how it is affecting the learning environment
- Describe the behaviors that must stop
- Articulate future consequences if behaviors continue
- Keep detailed documentation

Chronic Situations

- Give student warning to cease behavior
- Give student choice of leaving class for the remainder of the period or ceasing behavior
- Meet with student before student is allowed to return
- Move student to a different course section
- Refer to campus disciplinary officer

Serious Incidents / Safety Concerns

- Instruct student to leave class
- Dismiss class, if necessary
- Contact Security, police, disciplinary officer, County Mental Health
- Harassment Restraining Orders



The Student Conduct Code is a Technical Standard that all Students must Fulfill

- If a student with a psychological disability cannot conform, the student is not otherwise qualified.
- Americans with Disability Act (ADA) permits discipline even if misconduct is directly related to a psychological disorder if all students are held to the same standard.
- Discipline can be more effective than counseling in quickly stopping a disruptive behavior.

Seek consultation. Counselors can . . .

- Provide helpful suggestions for understanding and responding to challenging student situations
- Provide you with support and affirmation
- Help you “detach” and focus on teaching
- Advise you on how to suggest counseling to a student

Counselors cannot
work
magic.

