



Teaching Social Skills, Creating Successful Students Accepting No

Skill to Teach	"Accepting 'No' for an Answer" - Teach this mini-lesson in the context of a project.
Age	Middle and High School
Objective	Students will accept 'no' for an answer when choosing a research topic/product.
Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills poster or skill steps written on board • Materials for the academic project
Planned Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell students that they will choose a topic and/or product for their project. Let students know that you will approve or deny their request. Tell students that if they're told 'no', they need to accept 'no' for an answer appropriately and choose a new topic or product. • Tell the students the steps of "Accepting 'No' for an Answer" and refer to your wall poster or write them on the board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look at the person. 2. Say 'Okay'. 3. Stay calm. 4. If you disagree, ask later. • Ask why it is important for them to do a good job accepting 'no' for an answer.
Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell students they will practice accepting 'no' for an answer. Pass out a scenario to a few students. Some students will role-play in front of the class by asking you the question on the slip. Say 'no' and the student will look, say 'okay', and stay calm. Note: It might be important to choose students for the demonstration who have had trouble accepting 'no' in the past. • Now direct students toward the academic content by giving instructions for the project.
Assessment	Informal assessment of students' responses during the role-play and of students whose project requests you deny.



Role-Play Scenarios

Pass out a scenario to a few students. Have each of the students demonstrate accepting 'no' for an answer by role-playing asking the teacher the question and accepting 'no' appropriately.

I hate working in groups, can't I just work alone?

You know I don't like to write. Can I just do a PowerPoint?

This book is way too long! Can I read a picture book instead?

This is dumb! Can I just take a week of detention and not do this?

Why do you always have to pick our partners? Can I pick my own group?