Dealing with Difficult Students
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In any learning institution, problem students may exist. Especially in high schools, there
are rude students. For some reasons, it is a challenge to deal with them daily. It is due to the reason
that those students are habitually in trouble or are making trouble. Boynton (2005) mentioned that
the challenging student is more difficult to bond with and often has few adult relationships. As a
teacher, it is important that you go out of your way to show your students that you like and value
them. Simply going out of your way to greet your challenging students each morning or asking
them questions about sports or hobbies they are interested in is a way to display that interest, which
in turn fosters positive relationships.

To deal with difficult students, teachers must stay in contact with parents. Parents must
know what is going on; how often their children are in trouble and what trouble it was. Creating
this bond does really help.

Another thing that could help is to place the problem student nearest you or stay within
close proximity to him. This is to make him aware that someone is watching over his/her behavior.
Teachers should also have defined student expectations. They may use the same steps to get the
student on task and behaving every time. For example, negative behavior has a consequence. There
is also the best time to discipline. Overreacting without thinking is a negative way on dealing with
the students. It is better to have a private conversation with the problem student and discuss certain
matters. Sometimes, teachers who empathize with the students win their hearts.

Moreover, Tauber (1999) as cited by Boynton (2005) states that when you give challenging
students responsibility and a leadership role, you can help them turn their negative self-concept
into one that is positive and their obstructive actions into helpful ones. Of course, there is a danger
that this technique could backfire, so do this gradually, moving from small, private responsibilities
toward larger and more visible ones. You could start off by having a student take messages to the
office for you. If this succeeds, you could give the student more visible responsibilities, such as
assigning him or her to tutor a less capable student.

Asking help from teaching colleagues is also an advantage. The more teachers are
concerned, the better on the part of the students most especially if disciplinary measures are proper
and child-friendly. Having ample time with them such as tutoring for free is also a worthy activity. Lastly, never give up. Dealing with difficult students is certainly not easy. But no matter the behavior, don’t give up on reaching the students. A good teacher keeps up the good fight.

Reference: