

CLASSROOM DECORUM: or how to get an A in the class

1. Show up and show up on time. Attendance will be taken and four missed classes will result in a full letter grade drop. The nationwide research on students who do well indicates that students who attend class routinely make better grades, have a better understanding of the class and text and glide into the finish line with a superlative win. I'm a teacher who cares about you and your grade and superlative wins, so join me each day in a rush to the finish.
2. Don't use cell phones in class and turn them off when you come in.
3. Don't text in class, you might be asked to leave, and that would amount to an absence.
4. Don't gab during class instruction.
5. Don't chew, spit, rumple your pop bottles, sleep, eat, make obnoxious noises, use your computer or ask for extra breaks that do not apply to the entire class. I can't apply the rules differently for you when the entire rest of the class has to meet the basic rules of civility. Be civil to your classmates and me; none of us came to class to put up with disruptive behavior.
6. If you disrupt the class, I will dismiss you from class, and that will count as an absence.
7. Please come to class with passion, joy and excitement as you learn how to stand up for yourself, speak up for yourself, and act for yourself in the public arenas of your life.
8. Free speech, even passionate speech, will be encouraged in my classes, just so long as you do not break the peace. Lots of persuasive argument will be encouraged, just no shouting, yelling or violence. Instead, plan for serious discussion, but also laughter, fun and delight as you learn how to persuade others to agree with you and even follow you into a public life.
9. Take turns, always consider the multiple sides of an issue, and agree to disagree when you cannot reach agreement on one issue, but can stand together on the issues that you do agree on. Practice Democracy. Become a public leader.
10. Last, but certainly not least, read your text. All schools, nationwide, are falling behind in reading so that is a special focus of your education this year. Unless you read prolifically in your education and life ahead you will not be literate and your income will suffer and you will miss out on some of the finest moments of life, reading.
11. Welcome aboard and cheers! Linda Linn