

Connections Activity

Topic:	Attendance for Academic Success
Connections to Goal:	Academic
Grade Level:	9
Quarter:	1
Time Needed:	25 Minutes (one advisory session)

Handouts/Materials Provided:

- Reading Passages Handout

Summary of Activity for the Advisor: Students will read and discuss several different scenarios that emphasize the importance of attendance and punctuality.

Read/Discuss/Implement with students:

- Tell the group they are going to read two short passages today.
- Copy and distribute the handout and tell students to read both passages and answer the questions in writing. Give them 15 minutes to do so.
- Discuss the implications of these scenarios using the questions below.

If the students and Advisor are interested in this topic:

Use the following questions for journaling or discussion-

- What is one thing that you could do that would enable you to wake up on time consistently?
- Why do some people think that what you do the night before is more important than what you do in the morning?
- What do you think being dependable means?

Activity: Attendance for Academic Success

Scenario 1

Last year the fire department notified 75 candidates that they were chosen to be in the next class at the fire academy. Thousands of people had applied for these positions. On the first day they were to report, two of the candidates were late. When they arrived, they were told to leave and their positions were going to be given to two other persons. The commander who spoke to them said, "When we need you we mean here not somewhere else. We mean right now, not later."

Was the commander justified in dismissing them? Why or why not?

The commander dismissed the two candidates in front of the entire class. What effect was this meant to have?

Scenario 2

A high school teacher tells her classes at the beginning of the year that if anyone has five or more unexcused absences during a marking period, they will fail that marking period. She adds that it does not matter if the student was doing well or not. Five or more unexcused absences during a marking period will mean failure. A student in the 1st marking period misses five classes and the teacher sends a failure notice. The student and her parents are shocked because she is an above average student.

Why do schools require certain standards?

In this particular case, is the teacher justified? Why or why not?
