

As a future educator, I have found through experience and research how I wish to handle classroom management, my responsibility as a teacher, and my outlook on God in the classroom. These three aspects are some of the most important things that I will focus on as an educator, but not the *only* things by any stretch of the imagination.

Growing up as a student in a public high school, I realized the importance of classroom management and its effect on the students and their learning abilities. I found that some teachers would become angry with one or two people, and the class as a whole would suffer. This experience was always an unfortunate event, and I told myself that I would do everything in my power to avoid repeating this mistake in my own classroom. By staying calm and collected, even in the roughest situations, one can keep from lashing out and punishing the innocent bystanders. I have practiced this technique in my experiences with teacher aiding, novice teaching, and student teaching, and I have found that it works quite efficiently. By taking deep breaths and talking in a polite but firm tone, students typically respond better than if I were to simply fly off the handle.

Far too often I have seen teachers favor one student and dismiss the other simply because of their color or socioeconomic status. This favoritism is a sad thing to see, but I have learned from these experiences. I have found that, by listening to the students, I can change my lesson plans to accommodate all the different social levels found in my class. A quote by Aristotle comes to mind where he stated, “For he who would learn to command well must, as men say, first of all learn to obey” (Aristotle, *Politics*). A leader (or teacher in my case) cannot simply dictate the class. I wish to not only teach the students, but also to learn from them in a way that will enhance my lesson plans and allow them to reach their maximum potential.

In the future, I plan on teaching in a public school. However, I realize that in such a school, my religious views cannot be discussed or implicated in any way unless I am directly asked. This fact will be a challenge, but I hope that through my actions and the way I deal with various situations, my students will be able to see God’s light shine through me. Although I believe in God with every fiber in my being, I also realize that He is forbidden in some institutions, and could actually deter people from seeing and loving Him. Hopefully through my kind actions, people will be able to see God’s light and how a Christian should act.

Through my different ideals concerning classroom management, my responsibility as an educator, and my view of God in the classroom, I have found that kindness and control can solve almost any problem. I wish not only to motivate students to learn historical facts, but also to grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Through my actions as an educator, I not only have the ability, but also the *responsibility*, to lead my students toward a better understanding of the world in which they live.