

Explanation and Reflection:

Student Behavior Before and After Parent Phone Call

I experienced a few surprises during student teaching in relation to student behavior. The surprise that sticks out the most in my mind occurred while we were doing a project in Spanish One during our weather unit. Everyone was working very diligently and using their time wisely. A student asked to use the restroom, so I let him go. When he returned from the restroom, he found his project to look different than how he left it. He brought it to me and said, "Someone wrote this on my paper. What do I do?" I looked at his project and noticed some vulgar comments on it that were clearly not done in his handwriting. I then questioned the members of his group one by one in the hallway. Two of the other three group members confessed to writing the comments and words in his paper. I then wrote down what they said and told my cooperating teacher what had happened during prep that day. She could not believe what had happened because the two ladies that did it were perfect A students, having the two highest grades in the class. I was also very surprised because I knew that they were great students. According to school rules as well as my classroom rules, students are not permitted to use vulgar, hurtful, or profane language in the classroom. Therefore, I wrote up both students for this incident. Per administration's decision, they were both given ISS for one class period and asked to complete their class work for that day in ISS. A negative aspect of this situation is that the student, whose paper was technically vandalized, is not a strong student. Sometimes he needs some motivation to complete class work. Because of this incident, he had to start over! He ended up doing well on the project the second time, but he should have been able to complete it without this occurring the first time.

Since this incident, I am sad to say that one of the two students involved in this problem has continued this behavior. After multiple private talks with her, **phone calls to parents**, emails home, and two write-ups, I have since found another paper with similar comments. Because this led to three write-ups, she had to have a parent meeting in order to resolve the issue. If she gets written up for the same offense four times, she loses her credit for the class. I clearly do not want this to be the case. In the parent meeting, I made it clear that I did not want to take away an A that she has earned. I also made sure she knew that respect is the missing factor in this situation and that her success in my class in my overall goal. Unless she starts to respect me, this cannot take place. However, if I only have one major issue with a student out of a total of almost ninety students that I teach, I can say I am doing quite well.