

Instructor Development

Challenging Student Behaviours



Managing “Challenging” Behaviours in your classroom.

Eventually, as an Instructor, you are going to encounter behaviours from your students...which can create problems for you and the rest of the class.

It's important to keep in mind that, although it is frustrating you, the behavior may not actually be inappropriate, and the student may not be intentionally causing problems.

The most diligent, motivated and intelligent First Aid students can often cause you the biggest headaches...but it doesn't have to be that way.

Ask yourself a few questions before escalating to confrontation or ejection.

1. How have I contributed to this as an Instructor?
 - Am I being unclear, or contradicting myself?
 - Can the Student see and hear me from their seat?
 - Am I spending too much time on any one topic or activity?
 - Am I unprepared for this lesson?
 - Is the room or seating uncomfortable?
 - Is it past time for a break?
2. Were the classroom expectations and timelines communicated ahead of time?
3. What can I do, as the Instructor, to fix the problem for the Student?
4. Why is the Student in this First Aid class? Are getting what they need out of it?
5. How can I turn this Student into an asset for the class?
6. Can I **ask** the Student for their assistance in fixing this problem?
7. Is this behavior actually creating a problem for the class...or is it just bothering **me**?
8. How can I prevent this problem from occurring next time?

Most challenging behaviours can be corrected by speaking to the student **privately**...and **asking** for their assistance.

- Be respectful, but open and honest about what the problem is, and how it is affecting the class.
- Your students' ability to make your life miserable will always outstrip your capacity to punish them.
- Ejecting the student from the class, and/or withholding Certification is the only credible consequence you can offer. If you play this card too soon or too often...you risk losing the respect of the entire class.

Confronting the student about their behaviour in front of the class, and/or ejecting them from the classroom should be an absolute last resort, but your ultimate responsibility is to the entire class.

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Description of behaviour:

How does this behaviour create a challenge for the Instructor and/or affect the rest of the class?

Possible contributing Factors within the Instructor's control:

Possible contributing Factors outside the Instructor's control:

Prevention Strategies:

Mitigation Strategies: