

What Does Respect Look Like in the Classroom?

Students need to be central to all of your discussions with your mentee.

Encourage your mentee to think about these ideas.

1. What are your memories of respectful classrooms and disrespectful classrooms? What made them different? How will you create respect in the classroom?
2. How can classroom rules model respect? For example, if a rule says, “Don’t talk when others are talking,” as opposed to “Listen to others when they are speaking.” How are these rules different?
3. How does knowing (and pronouncing correctly) every student’s name promote respect?
4. How does asking students about their interests and ideas promote respect? Encourage the novice to create a survey. When she gets the results back, review them together.

Sample questions:

1. What is your favorite subject in school?
2. How do you learn best?
3. What would you like me to know about you that would help you learn?
4. What advice do you have for me as a beginning teacher?
5. Who is your favorite teacher and why?