# Conflicts With Teachers

Everybody who has ever gone to school has teachers who stick out in their memoery. Some will be remembered as wonderful mentors while others will live forever in student's minds as evil witches. Although it is perfectly normal for students to disagree with their teachers on a variety of subjects, part of maturing and learning to live in the real world is learning to express a differnece of opinion without having a conflict over it. Some students are convinced that their teachers are out to get them. It is these students who often butt heads and enter into power struggles with their instructors. Unfortunitly, these conflict, whether they be over grades, disipline policies, or personality conflicts, can make school a stressful place to be for some students. It is known that confrontations and conflicts can raise stress levels significantly. Making matters worse, these conflicts carry a high stake because the opposition has the power to effect the students future with their grade. The tension conflicts at school cause can have an impact on a students perfromance at school.

Today, issues at school extend far beyond the " schoolhouse gates." Problems and stresses from the home are often carried into the classroom. If the child or teen is unable to effectively cope with the stress, those around them are the first to know. The added stress can be taken out on the wrong person; sometimes the overly stressed individual may snap at another classmate, or the teacher. In either case the teacher becomes involved. While in their class, the student becomes the teachers' responsibility. If they notice that a student is having an unusually difficult day they should offer some help. But where, and when, does a teacher draw the line? Sometimes, no matter how needy, the student refuses assistance. If the teacher is truly concerned they'll be persistent. This is where conflicts can occur. The adult is trying to gain control by tapping into the problems of the teen. Often times, this scares the teen even more, and causes more problems. As common as this scenario is, there is one other source of conflict between teachers and their students that is generally overlooked. The teachers are human, too, and also experience high levels of stress. When they are unable to leave their stress outside the classroom doors they can transfer their stress to their students the same way the students do to them. " When the teacher herself is stressed and anxious, some of that anxiety can trickle down to the children." (Youngs) Since many teens look up to their teachers as role models and mentors, watching how their elders deal with stress serves as a template for their own stress reduction methods. As teens enter their junior and senior years of high school another conflict can occur as well. Around the age of sixteen or seventeen a student " ... feels a sense of independence and does not want adults to make decisions for [them] ... ." (Youngs) Therefore, disagreements can emerge from the "testing " of authority on the part of the teen. The teacher, in response will be stricter with the student to make sure the student knows who's boss. Students who continuously have conflicts with their teachers not only need assistance solving the argument, but the deep - rooted source of the conflict, too.

The major effect of repeated conflicts with teachers is the inability or unwillingness for the student to learn. One would therefore expect the teens' GPA to drop as the frequency of such conflicts increases. Our data accurately proves this. Of those teenagers who said they always have conflicts with their teachers, the average GPA is 2.85. Teens who sometimes have conflicts with their teachers have an average GPA of 2.88. The students who said they occasionally have conflicts with their teachers have an average of 3.13. And those students who say they never fight with their teachers have an average GPA of 3.30. The data basically specks for itself, and needs little explanation. Those students who have conflicts with their teachers perform with less success than those students who getting along with their teachers.

One-Way Analysis of Variance  
  
Analysis of Variance  
Source DF SS MS F P  
Factor 3 5.997 1.999 5.46 0.001  
Error 273 99.883 0.366  
Total 276 105.880  
 Individual 95% CIs For Mean  
 Based on Pooled StDev  
Level N Mean StDev ---------+---------+---------+-------  
teacher-A 9 2.8478 0.7796 (------------\*------------)   
teacher-S 42 2.8795 0.6943 (-----\*-----)   
teacher-O 135 3.1284 0.5964 (--\*---)   
teacher-N 91 3.3011 0.5537 (---\*---)   
 ---------+---------+---------+-------  
Pooled StDev = 0.6049 2.70 3.00 3.30