1. Rules
2. **Jointly established**, Students should take part in establishing class rules with the teacher. Rules should address both personal behavior and work habits

* I believe the rules should not be static and passive. The rules should be flexible and allow students to learn in a positive learning community. If the rule fits for students and increases their motivation in class, they can improve better than any other passive class.

1. **Reasonable**. Rules should focus on important behavior and be reasonable both in terms of duration of time and performance capabilities.

* Rules can be flexible, however, rules should not allow everyone to have freedom in any case or let them do whatever they want. Rules should help everyone to motivate and improve. However, they should be reasonable, so students do not get frustrated.

1. **Clearly defined**, Rules should be clear and understandable. It should be clear to both the student and the teacher when the rule has been broken.

* Rules should be specific and clear. Students and teacher should not play around with the rules. The specific rules for both the student and the teacher will make respect everyone in the class each other.

1. **Observable**, Rules should address behaviors that can be observed. Words which are value-laden should be avoided.

* Rules should be observable. Rules should be something people are conscious of and address while in the class. If students or teachers are not conscious, they can sometimes break the rules in the class.

1. **Positive**, Rules should be phrased in positive rather than negative terms. They should state what students should do and emphasize positive actions.

* Rules at times, can cause stress for those intended to follow them. For example, “If you violate this rule, you will be locked in a room”. The choice of words is significant. Nice words and enforcement will not cause anyone to feel threatened.

1. **Succinct**, Rules should be brief and specific. Rules that are short and to the point are easily remembered.

* Rules should be brief and specific. If the rule is too long, many people will not be able to follow the rules properly. Easy and simple rules can make a class easy to follow.

1. **Few in number**, there should be only enough rules to address areas of main concern. Anywhere from three to six rules are adequate, depending on the situation. Rules should govern general behaviors; specific instructions for special occasions can be given when the occasion arises.

* If there are too many rules, they become hard to follow. The rules could be simplified into some major rule so teachers and students never violate rules and follow appropriately.

1. **Enforceable**, If the teacher cannot enforce a rule consistently, he/she cannot expect students to follow it. Teachers should ensure that the established rules can be adhered to.

* If a teacher cannot enforce the rule, the teacher can set something so students can follow without enforcement from the teacher. For example, awarding can be one idea. For example, if students follow the rules perfectly, they get the candy they like.

1. **Enforced**, Rules must be enforced. Students should know the consequences of breaking a rule in advance.

* A rule should be tight. If it is not tight, there is no reason for the rule to exist. Students should know the consequence they will have if they break the rule. Then students will follow the rule. For example, in some class, if students are late for assignment submission, they will lose a portion of their grade.

1. **Constantly evaluated**, Rules are established to support individual and class success. Rules should be constantly reevaluated to ensure their continued utility.

* Rules should be constantly evaluated. Sometimes, rules cannot be perfect. Sometimes they need to be modified. Students and teachers constantly communicating to make better rules can improve the class.

From the story:

After reading the article, I have deeper understandings about rules in a classroom. I also became familiar with Glasser’s reality therapy, which is a teaching method to tell students how to be a responsible person with appropriate behaviors. It is essential to let students know how to face existing reality, and function responsibly, since this can help them fulfill the basic needs for love and self-worth. As a teacher, on one hand, we need to provide emotional support. On the other hand, teachers should not permit irresponsible behavior. Therefore, both teachers and students need a set of rules to constraint behaviors and make progress together.

In the article, there are ten characteristics of effective classroom rules. Firstly, it requires both teachers and students to establish the rules. However, it is usually only the teachers that set the rules in the classrooms I have been in. Some teachers are arbitrary in rule making and as a result, students will feel depressed. Secondly, the rules should be reasonable and clearly defined. Sometimes, rules are unclear to students, also they do not the circumstances of breaking those rules. Therefore, it is important for teachers to point out the punishment of each rules and treat everyone the same, including themselves. It is unfair if teachers have no punishment. Thirdly, the rules should be observable, which means each rule should be specific in how to follow it indefinitely, rather than just words like ”good” or “polite”. Many teachers will violate these characteristics since they always want their students to be nice but without the specific description of good behaviors. Different grades of students need distinct requirements. Therefore, one of the characteristics is to constantly evaluate to ensure rules change with time and utility. Moreover, rules are effective only when they are enforceable. Teachers should tell students how to follow them and the consequences of breaking rules. Teachers have responsibility to supervise how well students are adhering to these rules.

In the end, the article gives a suggestion of hosting a classroom meeting, which is a good tool to test how students perform during a period of time. It is a forum to review rules, to see whether they are effective enough. And can explore the aspect of student responsibility further. Overall, I agree with these characteristics of rules, and I will ensure they are present in my classroom in the future.