# Part A

My incident happened in the fall of 2017. It was probably my 6rd or 7th week of teaching. I was a new instructor and just getting familiar with what the students expected from me, and what I expected from the students.

For the past couple of weeks, I had noticed that as I was lecturing, a certain student, whose grades were not great, did not seem to be paying attention to me. I was noticing that their eyes were always on their screen, and I would occasionally catch a smile form on their face. My lecture really was not very amusing (or so I thought), so I assumed that they were watching a video instead of paying attention to content I was delivering.

The fact that this student was constantly behaving this way was really throwing me off. Being extremely naïve, I assumed that everyone would always pay attention. The fact that they did really bothered me. I found it extremely difficult to keep my train of thought while I was lecturing. As a new instructor, I thought that maybe I was boring them and not doing things properly.

# Part B

One day (I think I may have been having a bad day), I had had enough. I noticed that it also seemed that the two students sitting beside the problem student were also not paying attention. Therefore, I decided to call them out in the middle of my lecture, and in front of the entire class. I said “Are you guys paying attention to me at all?” There was a big pause, and no one said anything. The two students who I had grouped together with the problem student had an incredulous look in their eyes. When they realized I was talking to them, one of them got a bit angry. They turned the computer around and showed me what they were looking at. It was not a video. It was the material that I was talking about. They proceeded to express their displeasure in front of everyone in the class. We still had about 30 minutes left of the class, and the incident changed the atmosphere of the class. It was very uncomfortable for me, and I am assuming also for the students.

I do not know of any policy I could have followed.

# Part C

I felt like an idiot after the class. I met with the two students involved after class and apologized. I should never have confronted them in the middle of class. Instead, I wish I had waited until after class, and then spoke to the students individually and in private about my concerns. I definitely did not do the right thing. We sorted things out, and I was happy with the outcome.