



LESSON 1.4 House Rules

Module #1: High School Survival Skills

In every high school, there are basic skills that freshmen will need to know to get through the first couple weeks of school. They need to be able to navigate their way through the building and begin to understand the many differences between middle school and high school. Getting started on the right foot is important, and this module helps freshmen do just that!

Enduring Understandings

- I. High school and middle school are different, and there are basic pieces of information, skills, and strategies needed to successfully navigate the high school experience.
- II. Getting to know other freshmen and making school spirit a priority will create a better high school experience.

Essential Questions

- I. What key school personnel, procedures, and locations do I need to know in my high school? (I)
- II. What basic responsibilities are associated with being a high school student? (I)
- III. Why do I need to know the other freshmen in my class? (II)

Lesson Objective(s)

Students will discuss, understand, and agree to expectations for the Freshman Focus classroom.

Lesson 1.2

Lesson 1.3

Lesson 1.4

Lesson 1.5

Lesson 1.6

Directions:

1. Sometimes we just assume that our freshmen know why we're "doing" Freshman Focus; however, this isn't true. Take some time to discuss the reason your school has chosen to change the culture for ninth graders in your school. This is also a great time to overview the Freshman Focus curriculum and talk with your students about the topics that will be discussed throughout the year.
2. Explain to your students that the key to a successful Freshman Focus class is active participation by everyone in the room and being respectful of everyone's opinions and ideas. And, to ensure that these qualities exist in your class, you're going to create "house rules" together.
3. Examples of house rules include: (1) All class members will actively participate in Focus activities and discussions; (2) All class members will be respectful of each other's opinions and ideas; (3) All class members will be at class on time each day; (4) All class members will treat student leaders respectfully.
4. Once created, display your agreed upon house rules in your classroom for everyone to see.

Materials & Supplies

- Chart paper
- Markers
- Tape

FOCUS
POINT

Nationally, only 73% of current ninth graders will graduate from high school on time, and many never will graduate. Regardless if your school's rate is better or worse – if it's not 100% -- we have to do something different to get all 9th graders through!

- Consider creating Freshman Focus "class teams" with specific roles. For example, one team could be the "current events" team with the responsibility of periodically updating the class on important things happening around the school, the community, and the nation; another team could be the "social team" with the responsibility of recognizing birthdays, organizing secret pals, and ensuring everyone knows about important school social events. You can think of more teams — just make sure every student is on a team!
- Blog/Journal Entry: How are things going so far in Freshman Focus? Anything you'd like to see different?

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extension