

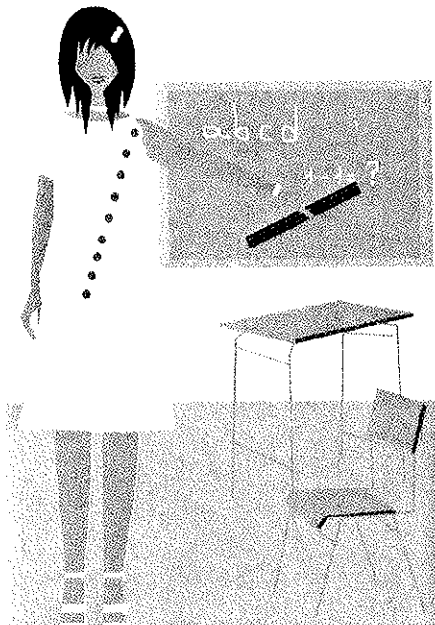


Pop Quiz:

What Does it Mean to be a Professional?

by **Mary C. Clement**

You're a student, but you're also teaching other students. How should you act when you're the teacher? Take this quiz to find out. Circle the best answer for each question, and read on to see how much you know about being a professional in the classroom.



1. When working with a teacher in his classroom, the most important first question to ask is:

- Where is the teachers' lounge?
- How can I help you?
- When do I get to teach?

2. My assigned teacher has asked me to walk around and observe students while they are taking a test. I see a student who is visibly cheating. I should:

- Discretely tell my teacher what I saw.
- Take the student's paper to the teacher.
- Tell the student I have seen him cheating and that he will get a zero.

3. If I am assisting a teacher and I am asked to do a lot of photocopying, I should:

- Do this as asked, and also discuss this with my FEA advisor before discussing it with my assigned teacher.
- Remind the teacher of the guidelines for my observations and teaching.
- Do this once, but not every visit.

4. If I see a student misbehaving, and I know this student's parents, I should:

- Call them when I get home.
- Send them an email.
- Say nothing about this because it happened at school.

5. When a student asks my opinion on a subject, I can:

- Tell them because of freedom of speech laws.
- Use my judgment to decide if this is a question that a professional teacher can answer.
- Answer with my opinion, provided I say it is only an opinion.

6. My assigned teacher takes me into the teachers' workroom/lounge at the school. I happen to overhear some gossip. What should I do?

- I should not repeat the gossip to anyone.
- I can discuss what I heard with any teacher in my school, just not other students.
- I can discuss what I heard with other teachers and FEA members, but not with community members.

7. My assigned teacher asks me to grade a set of 4th-grade papers. I have so much homework of my own that I say:

- Yes, and I get my mom to help me grade the papers.
- Yes, but then I tell the teacher later that I couldn't do the grading.
- I can't do this tonight, but I will help grade papers in the future.

8. I have been asked to do some work in my own school with students one year younger than me. I know almost all of them because I am in the band with them. A student asks me to change her grade because she knows I have access to the grades for that class now. What should I do?

- Change the grade and not tell anyone.
- Immediately tell the teacher about the request, and let her know I wouldn't do it.
- Don't change the grade, and don't tell the teacher either.

9. I want to be a Spanish teacher, and I'm working in a Spanish classroom now. While teaching a lesson, I realize I don't know the meaning of a word. I should:

- Make up a meaning, since the younger students won't know.
- Ask a student to look up the meaning of the word for the whole class.
- Skip that sentence in the exercises.

10. I was surprised that a young student looked at me and said, "I don't have to do this silly work. You aren't a real teacher." How should I have responded?

- "The real teacher said I could make you do this work."
- "I will tell the real teacher you said that and you will get three minutes off of your recess."
- "I am going to be a teacher one day, and I always help students like you learn. Let's start the first problem together."

Mary C. Clement is a professor of teacher education at Berry College in Mount Berry, Ga. Before moving into higher education, she taught high school Spanish and French.

THE ANSWER KEY

Give yourself two points for each correct answer.

1. b. You are a guest in another teacher's room, and while you are there to learn, helping out is very important.

2. a. You need to tell the teacher and NOT make a scene. She should handle this situation.

3. a. Always discuss an issue like this with your FEA advisor before talking with your assigned teacher. If the teacher doesn't understand your role in the classroom, your advisor can help. And sometimes a teacher just needs a helper, so be that person.

4. c. Part of being a teacher is learning about confidentiality. While you will recognize students in your district and may know their parents, do not discuss school issues with them.

5. b. You can answer something fun, like your favorite food or pizza topping, but you shouldn't be giving political views or answering controversial questions.

6. a. Do not repeat the gossip to anyone. This is the only answer.

7. c. Honesty is the ONLY policy. Teachers understand that you are a student, not a student teacher. Never commit to work unless you can do it on time.

8. b. Always talk with your assigned teacher about an incident like this. Do not change grades.

9. b. You could admit to not knowing the word and look it up or ask a student to look up the word.

10. c. While you are not a certified, "real" teacher yet, you should be positive with the students.

IF YOUR SCORE IS 16-20: Wow! You understand the professional responsibilities of today's teachers and of your role as an FEA student working in the classroom.

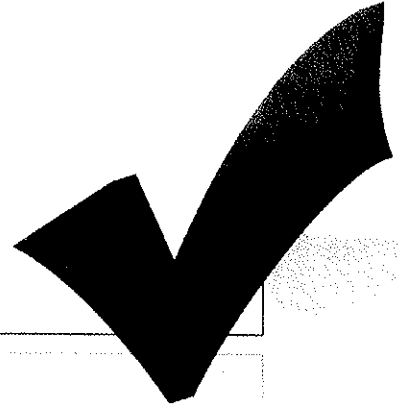
IF YOUR SCORE IS 12-14: You are starting to understand all the aspects of being professional.

IF YOUR SCORE IS 0-10: Keep discussing these issues with FEA members and your advisor. Today's teachers have to be professional.

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at www.facebook.com/futureeducators. We'll post some questions from this quiz, and you can see what other students said.



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