



Now that You Have Them, What Do You Do With Class Rules?

- Post them on bulletin boards.
- Display them on charts that students create.
- Turn them into booklets.
- Copy them at the front of student notebooks.
- Send them home to parents at the start of the school year so that parents become familiar with your philosophy about discipline and learn about the procedures that will be used during the school year. Point out that the rules were developed collaboratively after much discussion.

Class Bill of Rights

Class rules can take many forms, including a bill of rights or a class constitution. Although each is obviously a great tie-in with the study of American history in the upper grades, you don't have to wait until then for children to create their own bill of rights or constitution. You do, however, need to provide some background before children

can go ahead with this activity.

You might start with discussions about the rights of

others and what rights we have. We have the right to learn, the right to be safe, and the right not to be disturbed, for example. If you like, you may use the reproducible on page 84 as a basis for discussion. Once you and the children decide on their rights—and, by the way, yours as well—ask for volunteers to write the document. It should be signed by all class members.

That's what Molly Oakley's fifth-grade class did. First, though, Molly had the class study the United

CLASS CONSTITUTION

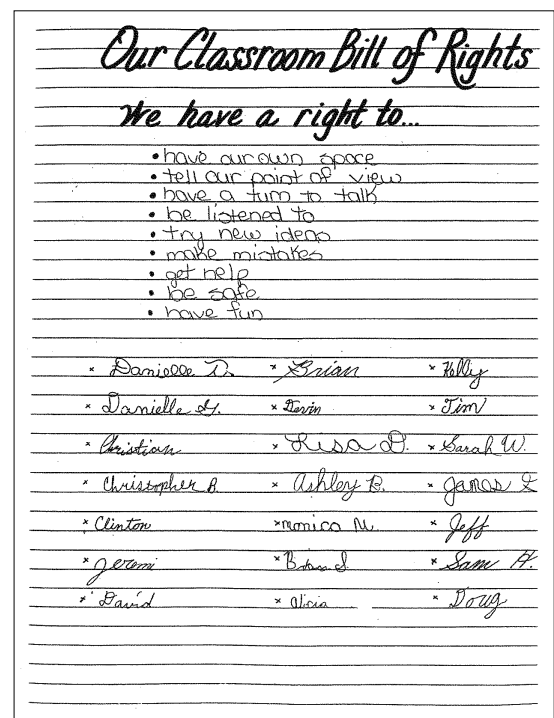
We the people of Mrs. Oakley's fifth grade class, are writing this constitution in order to have peace and not chaos in our class. We will respect everybody and all property and we will cooperate with each other at all times.

We will do our best in our work and will remember our manners. We will be helpful to others. We will pay attention and listen while others are speaking. We will always acknowledge those who talk to us or who do something for us.

Inappropriate language and put-downs are forbidden. If we can't say something nice, we won't say it at all. So we will always be kind to one another and show concern for our classmates.

The whole class is the Legislative Branch of our government. The Executive Branch is made up of the class president, vice president, and the secretary. The Judicial Branch is made up of five judges who will preside over court sessions. These positions will change each month. Mrs. Oakley does have veto power and is more powerful than either the Legislative, the Executive or the Judicial Branch, though she will listen carefully to all ideas, feelings, and opinions. No student may plead the Fifth Amendment, nor have lawyers represent them in court.

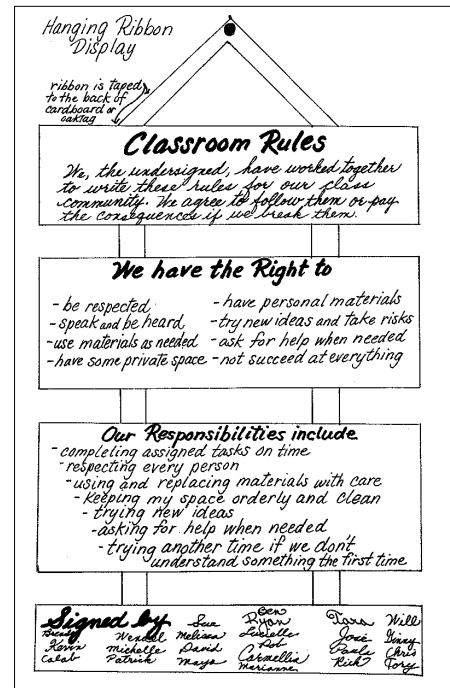
We realize that the rules are constructed for the Safety, Peace, and Health of all and we sign this constitution as proof that we will follow them all year long.





States Bill of Rights, which she displayed in a prominent place.

She also asked her children and their families to draft or write a Family Bill of Rights. She displayed the documents in her room and in the display area right outside. Some families were creative and made their bill of rights look antiquated by tearing the edges of the paper, wrinkling, and dyeing it.



Tea-Stained Paper

MATERIALS

- ☆ sheets of plain white paper (copy paper works well)
- ☆ several tea bags
- ☆ two-inch-deep baking pan

STEPS

1. Tear the four edges of the paper to eliminate clean-cut edges.
2. Brew the tea bags to create a strong tea, and let it cool. The tea can be used for several days.
3. When you are ready to stain the paper, pour the tea into the pan.
4. Crumple the paper, one sheet at a time.
5. Open the sheet, dip it into the tea for a minute or so. Lay out the wet sheet on a flat surface to dry. Add darker areas by dabbing them with the soggy tea bags.



<p>RIGHTS</p> <p>You have the right to...</p>	<p>RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>and the responsibility to...</p>
<p>be safe and have your belongings be safe.</p>	<p>treat other people’s property appropriately and with care.</p>
<p>work in a quiet place.</p>	<p>work quietly and not disturb others.</p>
<p>be treated fairly.</p>	<p>treat others fairly.</p>
<p>work in a clean room.</p>	<p>keep the room clean and pick up after yourself.</p>
<p>use school materials and equipment.</p>	<p>share school materials and equipment.</p>
<p>be heard and have your opinions respected.</p>	<p>listen to other’s opinions thoughtfully and respectfully.</p>
<p>study and learn.</p>	<p>study and learn.</p>
<p>make mistakes without being criticized.</p>	<p>let others make mistakes without making fun of them.</p>
<p>socialize with friends.</p>	<p>keep socializing from interfering with your learning and your classmates’ learning.</p>
<p>be respected.</p>	<p>respect others.</p>