

PART 1

FIRST WEEKS OF SCHOOL

A Memorable Day 1. . . .

On Day 1 of 9th grade history, another teacher walked into the classroom and asked to borrow some paper, and our teacher completely flipped out and made a scene. We all watched in disbelief. Then, after it was over, she asked us to write down what we saw, including every detail, from the color of the shirt the other teacher was wearing to the length of time the confrontation went on, and to include exact quotes from the interaction. We read all of them afterward, and there were so many variations of what everyone witnessed. Then she went on to say that much of history is like that as well. I'll never forget it.

—Amy, age 38

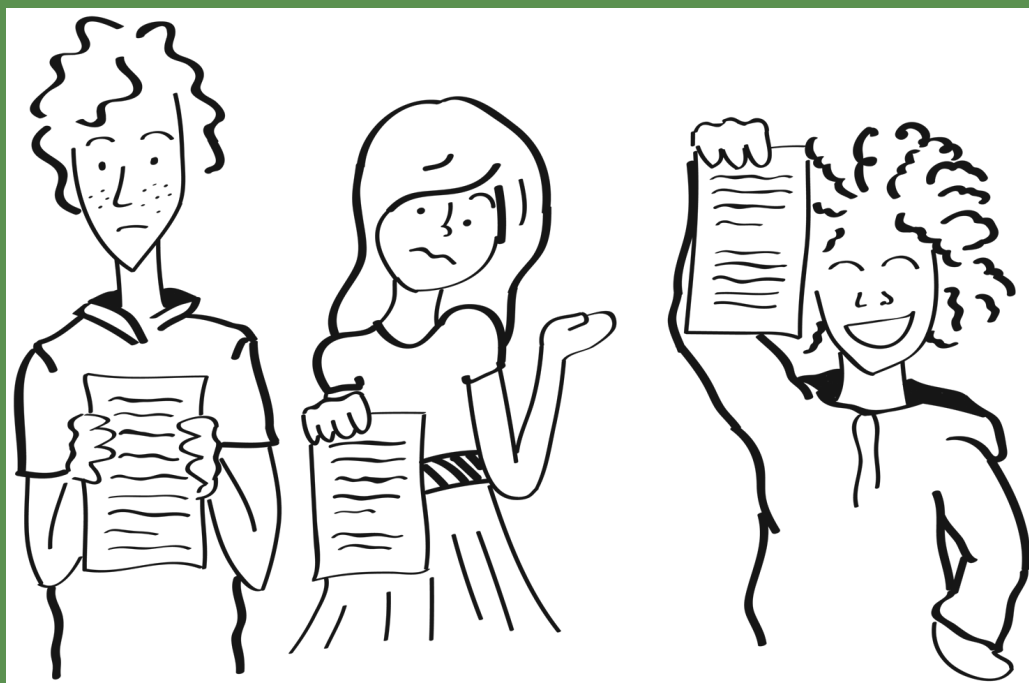


Image Credit: Mia Regalia www.paper-scraps.com

What do the first weeks of school have to do with classroom management?

Everything. First of all, we want to be prepared and not only on time, but early, so my first year experience doesn't happen to you. The first weeks of school will establish routines in your classroom and set your expectations for behavior and participation in place, and this will be the time your students form good habits in your classroom. This is also the time you will start to build a relationship based on mutual respect with students and set boundaries and structures. A strong first few weeks of the year almost always predicts a strong school year. Make these few weeks count.