

Special Topics in Education: Current Issues in Education

An Examination of Dr. Harry Wong's  
Processes and Procedures, Responsibility and Choices

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Dr. Harry Wong's video focused on the "proud to be a professional teacher" who has been trained, certified, and knows what to do. He focused on areas of being an effective teacher, as well as a distinct system with rules and procedures. That is the primary focus of this position paper.

The video was inspiring. There were several aspects that I had not considered before, especially as it relates to rules and procedures. The professional teacher has good management skills in working with students. The professional teacher has positive expectations for the students' success on the very first day of class; what the teacher does can and will affect the class for the remainder of the year. Dr. Wong suggested greeting the students at the door as they enter, which is an excellent idea (and one that I have implemented). It is not permissible for students to sit anywhere they want and that they may change at anytime, as a seating assignment has already been arranged. It is the teacher that is in charge of the class, and not the class in charge of the teacher!

Rules and procedures share a common unity. They must both be explained and clearly defined. Procedures must be rehearsed for the students to know and do what is expected of them. Both must start the very first day of class, and organization is essential if the students are to learn effectively all year long. He hinted at the fact that students learn by doing; they are there to do the work, and you are there to teach them.

However, there is also a dividing line between rules and procedures. Rules have built into them a system of penalties and rewards; it is pictured as a "dare to be broken"; procedures have no system of penalties and rewards; they are steps to be learned. Dr. Wong also stated that rules affect discipline; it affects their behavior (their actions). Procedures affect what you need the students to do in contributing to an orderly classroom.

I see applications that need to start on every teacher's classroom the first day. Guidelines of student behavior must be well thought out, organized in a systematic fashion, and communicated clearly to both students and parents. The affected parties must know exactly what will be done (if rules are broken) and what will be expected of them (procedures that contribute to an orderly class). In my opinion, the best way for this to be accomplished is in writing. It would also be helpful if rules and procedures were posted in the class, so that all can see and understand exactly what to do.

The only obstacles that I can see standing in the implementation would be individuals who may be wondering why you as a professional teacher need to do something such as this; today's youth can almost do no wrong; your rules are too restrictive. I feel that objections such as these are easily overcome when an orderly class is in a structured environment, and all are learning and contributing to the learning process. That is the purpose of education.