



Writing a Rule Activity

No Hats in the Classroom

Directions: Ask students what they think is the difference between a rule and a law. Explain that writing a rule is a challenging experience. Then, read *A Three Hat Day* by Laura Geringer if available in the school library or in a classroom library, and the scenario below entitled *No Hats in the Classroom*. Have the students decide if the exceptions should be made and why or why not. Then discuss if *No Hats in the Classroom* is a good rule.

The new Principal, Bonnie Beret, arrived at the Caps-Off-To-Reading Elementary School. Her first task was to bring the staff together to create the perfect set of school rules. Mrs. Beret pondered how the staff might promote the act of respect they all spoke about. Finally, it seemed that she had arrived at the answer.

Mrs. Beret's plan was simple. As she explained to her staff, taking one's hat off is a sign of respect. Her suggestion, therefore, was to have as one of her five key school rules:

No Hats in the Classroom

The rule seemed clear and easy to understand. It also seemed like a rule for which there would be no exceptions. Mrs. Beret felt that her new rule was a perfect one. Do you? Consider the possible exceptions below. Decide for yourself if Mrs. Beret's rule is a good rule.

1. Bobby's family is very religious. He always wears a hat to keep his head covered for religious reasons.
2. The gym teacher is teaching his classes how to play lacrosse. Each member of the class is given a helmet to wear for protection.
3. Jared and his friends think it is very cool to wear baseball caps backwards in class.
4. It is freezing outside and not too warm in the school building. Therefore, some students keep their hats on during class to try to stay warm.
5. The librarian's read aloud for the week is a Dr. Seuss book. Since she has a "Cat-in-the-Hat" hat, she decides to wear it for the lesson.
6. Randi needed chemotherapy. Because of the treatments, he has lost a lot of his hair and wants to wear a hat to cover his balding head.
7. Tanisha is having a really bad hair day and decides to wear a scarf on her head to cover up her unruly hair.