

Assigning Classroom Roles

Understanding student behavior is beyond the means of this lesson. But you don't have to be an expert in human development to identify a restless, unmotivated, or shy kid. Educators often use role assignment to thwart or to encourage certain behaviors. By assigning roles in the classroom, you give students an added sense of ownership and responsibility.

The following is a list of role assignments you can give students based on their traits and their behavior. When assigning roles, try to highlight to the class each one's importance in establishing community.

ROLE	WHAT THE STUDENT DOES IN THE ROLE	WHOM TO ASSIGN IT TO
AGENDA MASTER	Posts the agenda, crosses off an activity when finished, and throws away agendas	» A restless student, one who gets out of his or her chair frequently
TIME KEEPER	Makes sure the team is on time (using the agenda as a guide)	» Someone with a short attention span and who easily gets off task
MASTER OF SUPPLIES	Carries the mentor's equipment and passes out supplies	» Someone who needs a little extra attention
COLLECTION MASTER	Passes out and collects papers	» Someone who needs a little extra attention and who needs to feel special
RITUAL STARTER	Initiates the ritual by passing out supplies or props, setting up, and reminding others about what to do	» Someone who needs to experience positive reinforcement and needs to be settled down
CLEAN-UP CAPTAIN	Makes sure the room is back in order	» Someone who finishes work early
CHART KEEPER	Keeps track of everyone's progress	» Someone who is unmotivated

Don't see everything you want on this list? Feel free to make up roles specific to a task, particular subject, or assignment. And reassign roles as you see fit.