

Dealing With The Underachiever

The underachiever usually becomes involved in discipline problems. He/she will exhibit such behavior as:

- * Does not pay attention in class.
- * Does not complete assignments.
- * Does not work up to his/her academic potential.
- * Is not motivated to succeed in school.
- * Is easily distracted.
- * Is slow in getting work started.
- * Resists working independently.
- * Resists new tasks.

Here are some management tips that will help you deal with an underachiever and hopefully resolve a situation before it occurs. These tips are:

1. If a student is deficient in writing, give him/her oral examinations.
2. To prevent learning fatigue, incorporate frequent rest breaks during the lesson.
3. Make yourself available to the underachieving student for individual help.
4. Reward progress no matter how slight the progress is.
5. Remove as much pressure as possible from competing with other students.

Build on the student's successes so that he/she can increase his/her self-esteem. A student who feels good about his/herself will want to learn and in turn will cause you less problems in the classroom.