

## Reading, Writing and Responsibility

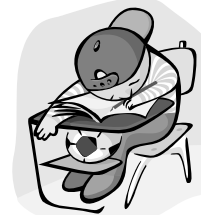
*The Philosophy of  
the Second  
Chance*



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## Truth #1

Students will  
make bad  
decisions



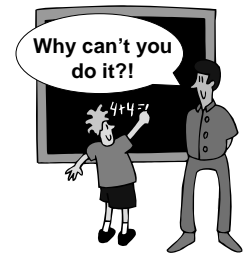
## Truth #2

Students need to  
learn how to  
make good  
decisions



## Truth #3

Students don't learn  
things just  
because we  
think they  
should.



## Truth #4

Students learn when  
they are given an  
opportunity  
to learn.



## Conclusion

If we want students to  
learn responsibility,  
we must give them  
opportunities to do so.

## **The Philosophy**

Students are making choices that affect the rest of their lives, yet they are too young and often too immature to make the choices that affect the rest of their lives. They will not always choose wisely the first time. Yet they may make a better choice if there is a next time.

## **The Philosophy**

Some students will begin to learn lessons only after they have made choices that make success a mathematical impossibility. Without a second chance the lesson may be useless.

## **The Philosophy**

We are not here to simply perpetuate the “bell curve of life.” We have the power to help bad decision-makers become good decision-makers. Just as a baby falls as it learns to walk, a poor decision-maker chooses poorly as he learns to choose wisely.

## **The Philosophy**

We don't expect students to enter our class knowing enough to pass our class. We should not expect Freshmen to enter high school as mature as they will be when they leave. They need transitioning into the high school.

## **The Philosophy**

Many students don't understand the relationship between work and success. If we don't give students an opportunity to work and succeed, they continue to think success is based on luck or genetics. We need to prove to them that work will lead to success.

## **The Philosophy**

**RESPONSIBILITY IS THE CONTENT!**  
If we want students to be responsible, we must teach responsibility the way we teach our subjects. Just as we give opportunities to practice a formula, we must give opportunities to practice responsibility.

# The Counter Viewpoints

(or what naysayers in your school will say about giving opportunities)



# The Counter Viewpoints

“We need to prepare kids for the real world. There are no second chances in the real world.”



# Rebuttal

The “real world” is FULL of second chances. All of us have benefited from a second chance at some point.

We aren’t fired the first time we make a small mistake. We don’t get divorced after our first fight. Should a student fail because of a poor choice the first grading period?

# The Counter Viewpoints

“Giving kids second chances makes it too easy on them. I’m not going to give a child a grade.”



# Rebuttal

Giving a second chance should not be giving someone a grade. The student must do the work and earn every grade given. If they’re late there should be a penalty. In fact, the second chance will be more work than the first.

# The Counter Viewpoints

“If a kid makes a bad choice and fails, he is just getting what he’s earned.”



## Rebuttal

In the end - YES. But in the meantime, if a student works even harder the second time and then gets a lower grade, he is still getting what he earned. Plus he is learning to believe in the system.

## The Counter Viewpoints

“The best way to teach responsibility is to let a kid fail.”



## Rebuttal

How does not teaching something teach something? We don't teach history by not teaching history. What you're really teaching that student is that you don't care what grade he gets. That simply reinforces his erroneous idea that he is not capable of success.

## The Counter Viewpoints

“Some kids will abuse the system and take advantage of the extra opportunities.”



## Rebuttal

No system is perfect. Some students will take try to take advantage of our kindness. This is no reason to not have a system in place that tells students that the school is there for them and that they are capable of success. We still have insurance even though some commit insurance fraud.

## The Counter Viewpoints

“Giving kids extra chances is too much work for a teacher.”



Rebuttal

**WOW!**



**Programs  
and Ideas  
for Giving  
Second  
Chances**



### Idea #1



#### Late Policies

-Provide opportunities for students who want to improve their grade to do so

-Amount of credit earned can vary and should probably lessen as year progresses

### Idea #2



#### Big Events: Amnesty Days

-Specific date(s) and time(s) when students may come in and gain amnesty from their poor choices

-Amount of credit earned can vary and should probably lessen as year progresses



### Idea #3



#### Credity Recovery: Recovery School

- One day a week after school per subject
- Student brings up previous grading period to lowest possible passing grade
- Must complete teacher assigned prescription AND have current grading period passing

### Idea #4



Look around your school. What do you already have in place that can be incorporated, modified, or used?

