



Challenge Sheet

Fall of 2009

Back to School Etiquette

Summer has ended and students of all ages are heading back to school. Parents have prepared their children with supplies, clothes, and transportation instructions for the school year. But one important preparation tool can be easily overlooked in all of the other hustle and bustle. That important tool is school etiquette. Below are some school scenarios that will challenge you to consider the rules of etiquette.



1 Eddie and Kit are both in Ms. Reece's 5th grade class last year. When Eddie and Kit reach the local bus stop simultaneously, they spark up a conversation about their summer vacations. Eddie and Kit are laughing and talking when Allie comes to the bus stop. Allie will be in Ms. Reece's 5th grade class this year. Allie has never met Eddie or Kit but have seen them around the school. What should happen next?

2 Eddie has been to Math, English, and Biology before he is scheduled for lunch. He received 200-page hardback books in each of his morning classes. So Eddie is in the hallway attempting to unlock his combination lock with one hand while balancing his books in the other hand. Since Kit and Eddie have the same lunch hour, they agreed to meet in the lunchroom and sit together. Kit figures that she has just enough time to run to the bathroom and still make it through the lunch line before all the dessert is gone. When she reaches the bathroom door, she sees Eddie struggling with his locker and the books. What should happen next?





3 Eddie, a fifth grader at Washington Elementary School, is waiting at the bus stop when Kit, a second grader at Washington School, approaches with her mother. After encouraging Kit that she would have a great first day of school, Kit's mom turns to Eddie and asks if he is getting on the 7:15 am Washington Elementary School bus and if he would make sure that Kit gets on the bus. What should happen next?

4 Kit is starting her first year of college. The college matched Kit with her roommate Allie. Kit has been corresponding with Allie for the past two weeks and has learned that Allie is an avid botanist and would be bringing some plants to the dormitory room. Kit and her mother arrives at the dormitory room before Allie. Kit's mother asks Kit if Kit wants the desk by the window or by the door. What should happen next?



5 Since Allie's roommate is studying in their dormitory room, Allie decides to go to the common room to watch her favorite tv show. When she gets to the common room, the television is on but there is no one sitting in the sofa chairs near the television. Eddie is sitting at a table in the back of the room reading a book. What should happen next?

6 Washington High School is playing Adams High School in the first basketball game of the school year. At past games with Washington H.S. and Adams H.S., Adams' students hissed and booed when Washington players got possession of the ball or made a good play. Washington students decided to do the same when Adams' players get possession or make a good play. Eddie, Kit, and Allie, who are students of Washington H.S., are attending the game. When Adam took possession of the ball, many Washington students began to hiss and boo. What should Eddie, Kit, and Allie do next?



Answers Below



Answers

Scenario One: Eddie and Kit should introduce themselves to Allie. Although an individual can introduce himself or herself to a group, it is easiest for a member of the group to begin introductions. Under the rules of etiquette the individual should not interrupt and invite himself or herself into an on-going conversation unless absolutely necessary. However, a member of a group could more easily cease the group's conversation in order to invite an individual to the group when it is important.

Scenario Two: The first rule of etiquette encompasses the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Kit can offer to help her friend and then ask Eddie to get her dessert while she goes to the bathroom. Kit does not have to help Eddie, but if Kit was in his position she would want someone to help her.

Scenario Three: Eddie should respond "Yes, ma'am, I am getting on the bus and will make sure that Kit gets on the bus." When addressing an elder, a younger person should always use "ma'am" or "sir."

Scenario Four: Kit should respond, "No, ma'am. Allie will bring in a couple of plants and the window desk would be better. I'll take the bed by the other window though." This scenario, again, follows the Golden Rule. Kit does not have to leave the desk by the window, but if Kit was the botanist, she would want others to be considerate of her needs.

Scenario Five: Allie should say, "Excuse me, are you watching tv because I would like to know if I could change the channel and watch tv?" The rule of etiquette requires the use of "excuse me" or "pardon me" when interrupting a person. Although Eddie may be appearing to read instead of watching television, Allie should make sure rather than just simply turn the television.

Scenario Six: Eddie, Kit, and Allie should not join in to the rude behavior of the other students. Booing and hissing are rude behaviors. A person does not have to support his or her team by condemning the opposing team. Eddie, Kit, and Allie should save the energy from booing and hissing to cheer louder for the Washington players.