



3. **Comply** with simple rules and expectations. Many teachers describe the failure of students to arrive on time, submit work or return permission notes as highly disrespectful.

4. **Maintain order and quietness** in the classroom tends to be an unspoken indicator of respect for the teacher.

5. **Listening actively** and engaging in learning indicates a value placed on the information being taught as well as the person sharing it.

6. **Acknowledge them outside of school.** Teachers report feeling respected when students are courteous, open and friendly in interactions outside the school be it at the shopping centre or a local sports game.

7. **Use an appropriate tone of voice** is one final but highly significant way students can be deliberate in their communication of respect to teachers. Many times it is the off-handed, flippant or even brash tone of voice that students adopt when speaking to teachers that causes the greatest offence. In reality, it is not what is said or even what is intended, but how it comes across that truly matters.

## The 7 languages of respect for *students*

Students tend to feel respected when their teachers:

1. **Greet them warmly** when they walk into the classroom. This is a very simple way to establish rapport and a sense of connection particularly when a student's name is used in the greeting.

2. **Give responsibility** to students by asking them to organize events, lead group discussions or even set up the classroom technology for a lesson. Setting a high expectation for students will often bring out their best and indicate a teacher's trust.

3. **Ask for input and ideas** from students. This indicates that the teacher values the students' suggestions, ideas and creativity.

4. **Allow for flexibility** in how the classroom runs. This can often be very effective as it makes the young people feel as if they are being treated like adults.



5. **Are willing to be authentic and vulnerable.** This speaks very loudly to Gen Y students who will most respect adults who are genuine with them. If teachers are brave enough to be a real person in front of students, this communicates respect and trust very loudly.

6. **Listen to their stories and experiences.** Today's students love to share their stories, feelings and experiences. By allowing them and even encouraging them to do this, teachers communicate that they value students' experiences and perspective rather than dismissing them as naïve or childish.

7. **Take an active interest** in the lives of students *outside* the classroom. This will tend to show that teachers see pupils as *people* and not just students.

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Respect is the foundation to any effective cross-generational communication. For Gen Y, respect is the currency of relationship. It must be earned and will tend to be given based on whether it is relationship driven and reciprocal and not on title or role.

Although respect must be a two-way exchange between teachers and students, it will often be the teacher who needs to take the first step. It is therefore critical that teachers understand what makes their students feel respected and also what will communicate respect in return – in many cases young people don't mean to show disrespect to older generations but fail to understand how their actions and attitudes are perceived.

## ABOUT MICHAEL

Michael McQueen is an award-winning speaker, social researcher and 3-time bestselling author.

Michael's first book *The 'New' Rules of Engagement* was the culmination of a 3-year study of the key drivers of youth culture around the world. With an emphasis on the values and attitudes of Generation Y, this 2007 release was designed to help business leaders, educators and parents to better engage younger generations.

Michael's most recent book *Winning the Battle for Relevance* is a landmark title that explores why even the greatest businesses and institutions become obsolete and how others can avoid their fate.

In addition to featuring regularly as a commentator on TV and radio, Michael is a familiar face on the international conference circuit having shared the stage with the like of Bill Gates, Whoopi Goldberg and Larry King.

Michael has spoken to over 150,000 people across 5 continents since 2004 and is known for his engaging, entertaining and practical conference presentations.

