
Classroom Management Tips

Visiting a school classroom as a guest speaker is an exciting opportunity. The following classroom management strategies will help you maximize student engagement and minimize presentation distractions.

- **Communicate**: Provide brief, oral directions and show students what you want them to do.
- **Engage**: Ask questions to keep the students involved and active; give clues if they don't respond but don't give the answer away.
- **Flexibility**: If the students are having difficulty understanding a concept, feel free to add your own example or activity to help them grasp it.
- **Move**: Walk around the room during the presentation. This will help keep students alert and engaged.
- **Personalize**: Make eye contact with the students and try to use their names.
- **Reinforce**: Make sure you know the classroom rules and procedures the teacher follows. Let the students know that you will be following these same rules and procedures. The teacher is responsible for classroom discipline; be sure to ask for assistance, if needed.
- **Relate**: Use stories and/or examples that students are familiar with from their community. This allows students to apply the presentation information to their own experiences.
- **Relax**: Smile and don't be afraid to use humor; enjoy the students and their enthusiasm.
- **Share**: Ask students to raise their hands for permission to share or respond to a question. Otherwise, students may talk at once.
- **Simplify**: Avoid slang and industry jargon; use terms and language students can understand. Students may not be familiar with some words and concepts used in finance, so be sure to explain all terms or ask the teacher for advice.