

# FROM RULES TO GREAT EXPECTATIONS

By making a few small alterations, you can change the behavior mindset of your class. Instead of barriers and negative connotation, appealing to a student's desire to belong by creating positive and broad rules (a.k.a. expectations) will intrinsically encourage their cooperation.

## Guidelines for Alterations

1. Avoid using the terms “no” and “not”.
2. Soften direct demands, such as “follow directions” or “listen”.
3. Design the statements to impart a sense of team membership by using the term “we” and use “I” to convey dependence and trust.

## Examples: Rule vs Expectation

Listen when others are talking. Do not talk during instruction.	I expect that we will be respectful to everyone at all times.
Follow directions. Do not disturb others.	I expect that we will use our time wisely.
Work and play in a safe way. Do not play with lab equipment.	I expect that we will treat our tools and materials carefully.

*\*Implementation Note: Be sure to discuss how each expectation applies to the needs/purpose of the class, provide examples of not meeting the expectations and any associated consequences, and refer back to the expectations when correcting behaviors.*