

One experience that stood out to me and left its mark was in highschool. During my Sophomore year of high school, I had the pleasure of meeting my history teacher, Jeremy Matuk. He had this certain attitude that showed he mostly desired respect out of his students. Out of all my years in school, Jeremy was the only teacher I've had that I liked, and also disliked.

To begin with, Jeremy was an excellent teacher. Every class had the same daily process and routine so there wasn't much variety in his teaching methods, but that wasn't necessary for Jeremy. Class was actually interesting because of the way he interacted with students, sometimes going off track to ask about a stain on a student's shirt, playing music of someone's choosing in the background, and generally would shoot the shit with the students. In addition, Jeremy went on a first name basis. Instead of calling him Mr. Matuk, the students would call him Jeremy. This made the class, and myself, feel closer to him. As if he was a friend. Something as simple as using your first name really goes a long way, I hope more teachers adopt this style of teaching. As a result, everyone in the class was attentive and focused. Generally, I was an average student, receiving average grades. But History class was an anomaly. I scored nearly perfect on most exams and finished the year with a 90+ GPA for Jeremy's class. When it comes to Jeremy and his teaching skills solely, he was one of the best teachers I've ever had.

Remember when I said that Jeremy desired respect? Well using the word 'desired' would be a bit of an understatement. Jeremy was a feen for respect and class dominance. Everything must go his way. On the first day of his class, he went through the normal talk regarding grading, homework, etc. Then he began talking about "class etiquette" and what he wants to see and not to see throughout a day of class. This talk lasted through the period consisting of minor ticks that Jeremy despises. For example, yawning without covering the mouth, spraying perfume/cologne, tapping your fingers or your foot, slouching body posture,

etc. My first altercation with Jeremy came from leaning my head on my hand. Thinking that I was sleeping when I wasn't, Jeremy tells me "Denis, wake up or get out." Being slightly surprised by this statement I replied, "I wasn't sleeping." Jeremy doesn't take this kindly for whatever reason, and tells me that I can leave if I want to argue. I didn't say anything after that. It was early on in the year and I didn't want to leave a negative image of myself, more than I already have. Being that it was early on in the year, I believe he just wanted to use me as an example to the other students. I brushed off the situation. Then throughout the year it seemed to me and my other classmates that Jeremy had it out for me. He would cold-call on me often more than other students. A cold-call was his term for selecting a student at random to answer a question. Despite me not raising my hand for a reason, multiple times I've had to admit to him and the class that I did not know the answer or I would just try to guess. That was annoying and at times humiliating. Cold-calling wasn't the only way he showed his feelings for me, Jeremy liked to gossip to other teachers about his students. I learned this when I got kicked out of his class for using my phone, which is understandable to an extent. On that same day, one of my English teachers who was close to me asked me, "What's going on with you and Jeremy?". I just told her that I didn't know because I really didn't know. From that moment on I just layed low in his class, did what I had to do and left. Therefore, Jeremy was a nit-picking classroom dictator that sought total control, causing myself to feel mixed feelings towards him.

For my final report card, Jeremy wrote nothing but good things in the teacher's section. Different from the previous comments I've received from him calling me out on everything possible. Having Jeremy as my teacher has taught me that sometimes you may have to conform to someone else's desires in order to tread smoothly.