

The Blame Game

Too often students make excuses that put the blame on anyone else but them. This means they are playing the role of victim, and they had no control over the situation at all. Students need to see and hear how the role of victim limits them. They need to learn to take responsibility for their actions even if they may have to suffer some consequences. This shows maturity and character. These traits are valued in the 'real' world. This exercise will help him see how the victim position is weak and the responsible position is strong.

The following phrases are things students have used as excuses for not completing their assignment for class. Ask students to take these statements and rephrase them so they are accepting and owning the responsibility of the situation. You may even ask students to add some excuses to the list. They might also rephrase these.

- I don't have my report because I was going to meet with my group, but they didn't call me to remind me about the meeting time.
- I didn't finish the assignment because I had to work late last night and I fell asleep.
- I tried to work with my partner, but she could not meet when I had time. She was just impossible to get in touch with so I did not get my assignment done.
- I don't have my paper because my printer ran out of ink last night and all the stores were closed.
- I just can't do well in this class because the professor does not give out study guides and he talks so fast that I can't keep up with the notes. It's all my professor's fault.
- I don't have my assignment because I was not here last week and my friend did not send me the assignment.
- I didn't know we were having a test this week. My friend in this class did not tell me and I wasn't in class because I had a doctor's appointment.