

What Are the Consequences?

Give the students a set of situations and ask them to respond to each situation by writing down how they would respond. Then divide the class into groups of two or three. Each group should take one situation at a time and share how they would respond. Then the group should come to a consensus about the best way to respond. Each group will record their most mature response to each situation on a large post-it note pad. After each group has responded, or the instructor decides enough time has elapsed, the groups will compare their responses.

Situation 1: You have a group project due on Friday. It has been assigned since the first day of class. You and your partner on this project have tried to meet, but could only do so briefly because she was leaving town for the weekend. You made plans to meet on Sunday evening when she returned, but she called and cancelled. You have done all you can without her help. Time is getting short. She comes over briefly to meet on Tuesday night late. As you discuss the project, it is obvious you both have a different vision. Rather than work it out, she just says she will do everything and put your name on it. However the night before the project is due, she calls to ask you to come and help because there is too much to finish. You go to her apartment to help. When you arrive, she is watching a favorite show on television and refuses to work on the project until it is over. How would you have handled this entire situation?

Situation 2: You have received your school loan for the semester. The money has been applied to your college account. After your tuition for 16 hours has been paid, you have a credit balance to use for living expenses for the rest of the semester. You have also received two credit card applications that you have activated. You have decided it is time to update your year old computer with a new laptop and printer, so you ordered it today. You also went on a shopping spree for some new school clothes. After all this you still have \$1500 left in your account, but one of the credit cards has nearly at the maximum level. Your part of the rent is \$500 per month and your cell phone bill is \$65 per month. The utility bill for this month was much higher than expected. You haven't purchased groceries and other personal items yet. The credit card bill will come due soon also. You are beginning to worry....
What should you do about this situation? What could you have done differently?

Situation 3: Your least favorite course is Freshman English, and you have this class at 8:00 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. It is hard to get up for this class after the weekend, so you have missed 3 or 4 times on Mondays and twice on Fridays to go home early for the weekend. You are behind on your writing assignments and you have missed one major test and two quizzes. You just have trouble getting started on the assignments.
What should you do about this situation? How can you avoid this situation from happening in the future?