



DEFUSING ANGER & AGGRESSION

Safe Strategies for Secondary School Teachers

MODULE 2: RESPONDING TO PROVOCATIVE BEHAVIOR



We need to keep in mind that in this situation the student fully expects to be corrected by the teacher and to get attention and reinforcement from her peers. In a sense the student plans the challenge through the provocative behavior of breaking a rule. Consequently, when the teacher directs her to correct the matter, the stage is set for a power struggle.

How does the teacher provide directions in response to Sarah's provocative shirt:

- She speaks privately to Sarah
- She identifies the problem
- She asks Sarah to take care of the problem
- She presents Sarah with options
- She asks Sarah to choose an option
- She acknowledges Sarah's cooperation

In general, there are two steps in dealing with provocative behavior:

- Provide a focus for the student to take care of the problem; make it her/his responsibility
- Present choices; do not corner the student by presenting a single option