



Strong Voice is a practice that establishes the teacher's authority in the classroom. It is the teacher's ability to present themselves to their students to encourage compliance and on task behavior. Having a strong voice makes the use of excessive consequences unnecessary.

- State clear expectations.
- Scan the room to ensure that the students are meeting the expectation.
- Use any of the five basic principles when interacting with students to establish control.
  - Use Economical Language: Fewer words are better. Using too many words can distract students from the point you are trying to make. Stay calm and communicate clearly what you want.
  - Command Attention: When the teacher needs students to listen, his or her words are the most important and should not compete for attention. Wait until there is no talking or rustling. Nothing continues until the teacher has everyone's attention.
  - Stay Focused: The teacher does not let students distract him or her from the topic at hand. Do not engage in chatter.
  - Square up-Stand still – When giving directions, stop moving and doing other tasks. To convey the seriousness of your directions, turn with two feet and two shoulders and make direct eye contact with the student(s) to whom you are speaking.
  - Exude Quiet Power – It is instinctual for teachers to speak louder and faster if they feel they are losing control. Fight those instincts and drop to a quieter tone and pace to maintain control. Exude calm and drop ones voice so students strain to listen.
- Integrate Strong Voice into all interactions with students to establish control and authority.



## Additional Tools

For additional resources and examples of Strong Voice, refer to Doug Lemov's *Teach Like a Champion*.

For more strategies and/or resources, visit [houstonisd.org/EffectivePractices](http://houstonisd.org/EffectivePractices)



## ALERTS

Remember that your response to students should not cause more disruption to the teaching and learning environment than the disruptive behavior itself. A casual tone of conversation in the classroom builds rapport with students. However, teachers need to adjust to a more formal register to communicate a sense of urgency and stress the importance of his or her message.



## QUICK TIPS

Give the student the opportunity to correct his/her own behavior before any more public intervention.