

Bethany Lutheran College

# Authoritative Classroom Management Style

Rachael Heidorn

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Dr. Polly Browne

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Rough Draft

There are many different approaches a teacher can manage his classroom. Research has proven the authoritative style is the best way to manage a classroom. Authoritative has two parts. The first part is the teacher nurturing the students through encouraging independence and open mindedness. The second part is the teacher having control over the classroom. This means the teacher guides the students through each day instead of them deciding what they do for every aspect of the day.

Authoritative classroom management is a mix between permissive and authoritarian management styles. Permissive teachers are full of love but demand no control. The students run the classroom and love their teachers. Authoritarian teachers have little or no love in their classroom and only demand control through fear. Authoritative has a balance of love and control in the classroom ( Stratford).

Authoritative style has very realistic expectations for the students. The teacher does not expect them to be perfect in everything that they do because that is unrealistic. The teacher themselves are not perfect so when implementing authoritative style, they realize that students make mistakes too. Jade Rivera starts her class day with a meeting and she asks her students what their hopes and fears are for the day. She gauges where her students are at before they start. This allows the students to take ownership of their day but with guidance. She also had an interesting take on the grading system. She does not give classic grades through tools like rubrics but simply grades on a student's best possible work. This term can be taken many different directions. A teacher cannot always know what a child's best work is.

When giving instructions, the teacher really emphasizes why the students are doing what they are doing and how they should do it. The teacher also encourages independence. Again, the

child is expected to take control of their behavior by having the knowledge of the teacher's expectations.

Authoritative style shows positive results with most students and especially the gifted students. Gifted students thrive on empathy and attention and that is what this style produces. Gifted students need to be shown how to improve or make what they are learning more challenging. In order to achieve this, the teacher might need to be a little more strict but also show excitement when they are reaching their goals.

When enforcing this style, the teacher usually welcomes conversations, debates and maybe even an interruption to the lesson. This creates connections for the students to make that is more than direct instruction and student led instruction. When doing say, a science project, the teacher guides them and does not lead them.

Research shows that effective teachers can be characterized by an authoritative style—a style that combines 3 types of strategies: classroom management and positive climate strategies for preventing behavior problems, operant learning strategies for the short-term management and control of behavior problems, and decision-making and social problem-solving strategies for achieving the long-term goal of self-discipline (Bear).

Basically, authoritative style has many sub-points within the actual management style. The teacher has short term and long term goals for her students behavior and academics. The students are taught how to make their own decisions and how to monitor their behavior and academics with the teacher's guidance.

Classrooms sometimes need a teacher to act permissive and sometimes they need the teacher to act authoritarian. It is impossible to always have the perfect balance of nurturing and control. If a class is not behaving, then sometimes the teacher will need to bring out the authoritarian style to get their students under control. Sometimes the authoritarian style comes out on accident due to frustration or stress. In summary, the limitations are trying to always keep the perfect balance.

### Personal Opinion

I personally believe this is the best approach to managing a classroom and the research would agree. Not only are classrooms running this way but so are businesses, parenting, or any leadership position. People do not like to listen to a person who lets people control them and they do not listen to someone out of fear. Fear creates short term results but not long term. Students need love and guidance. Teachers should hold their students to a certain standard but they should also keep in mind that students mess up. When the students do mess up, and they will, the teacher has to let that student know that they are forgiven and still loved. Students are not perfect and should not be held to an unrealistic standard. On the other hand, teachers do not need to be their best friend. It is really easy to approach topics in a way the students will like you. People do not like to be the bad guy or unliked, but sometimes that's exactly what the teacher needs to do.

It should be a natural reaction for all good teachers to want to love their students. Sometimes that love is tough love and is just as important as regular love. I truly believe that if a teacher tries any style but authoritative style, they will struggle. Within authoritative style come many branches of more specific management styles. That is the next step for the teacher to figure out.

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