

**GOLD MEDAL CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT  
SPECIAL SESSION**

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- Effort vs. performance issues
- Initiating class discussions
- Dealing with students whose substance abuse is impacting on class
- Rising student expectations due to technology—impact of e-mail, faxes, etc.

One of the constant themes I have noticed over the years at MEA is "How do I improve my teaching?" What can I learn at this conference that I can take back to my school and implement on Monday morning? Yes, we hear about new courses and technology, and we have all tried some of these, but how do we as teachers handle the everyday classroom management problems?

Sometimes new teachers are afraid to ask their colleagues, and experienced teachers don't discuss it; both for fear of being judged a poor teacher. The problem is that we continue using the same techniques year after year because we don't find new ideas or solutions. I have been at special sessions where classroom management or techniques are presented. These sessions are great take home ideas from one presenters perspective. The audience at these sessions is excited to talk about their ideas, but not enough time is available because the panel uses most of the time.

I propose a special session where audience participation is required. We share our ideas. Each panel member can shortly present his/her solution to a classroom management problem. Then the panel member can ask the audience what they have done to effectively solve the management problem at hand.

**Structure of Competitive Special Session:**

- Dealing with disruptive students
- Attendance problems
- Rescheduling exams—Issues of fairness to student vs. classmates
- Cheating
- Test return day issues
- Extra credit issues