

What to Say When Teachers Say No

If your teacher says . . .	You might respond . . .
“I can’t make an exception for you.”	“That’s okay with me, since I think there are a number of students who might benefit from being allowed to [fill in here with whatever it is you’re suggesting].”
“It’s always been done this way.”	“I know. And I’m sure there are probably some very good reasons for that. But how about letting me try this one time, and if it doesn’t work, I’ll agree to go back to the way it’s been done in the past?”
“It would cause chaos in my classroom.”	“I’d be willing to help see that chaos doesn’t prevail. I could form a small committee of students who really care and who would help set some guidelines that would keep order in the classroom. We’d agree that if things got out of control, we’d lose this opportunity.”
“You’re a straight-A student. Why not be satisfied with that? After all, what more could you ask for?”	“I know I get straight A’s, but the thing is, I feel I could be learning so much more. If it were possible to get a higher grade than an A, just think of the possibilities! You know the old cliché—‘The sky’s the limit.’ I’d like to aim higher, and I really need your help and support.”