

Planning for Low-Level Interruptions

Low-level interruptions include issues such as talking during lectures, chewing gum, eating or drinking noisily, and being late. Instructors often have different levels of “acceptance” when it comes to these types of misbehaviors, so it is important to think through the expectations you want to have in your classroom to limit these interruptions. Because this level of interruption is best handled by clear expectations, routines, and procedures, use the space below to think through the different types of interruption, their importance to you, and possible expectations or procedures you can implement to reduce their impact on your instruction.

Low-level interruption	How bothersome is this action to me?	Suggested expectations or procedures	Actions I plan to take
Arriving late	Not at all A little bothersome Very frustrating	Have a few designated seats close to the door for late students so they do not disrupt the class.	
Leaving early	Not at all A little bothersome Very frustrating	Request that students sit close to the exit so they can leave without disrupting others.	
Using technology for a nonacademic purpose	Not at all A little bothersome Very frustrating	Restrict the use of technology to class-related tasks.	
Eating food during class	Not at all A little bothersome Very frustrating	Restrict food and drink consumption in the classroom.	
Talking during lectures	Not at all A little bothersome Very frustrating	Establish common expectations for behavior during lecture. Integrate short lecture breaks throughout to allow for small-group discussions about the topic.	