

# Case Study

Mrs. Powell assigned a pre-lab to each of her students that required some research for the introduction. With the assignment the teacher instructed, the students had to use at least two credible internet sources for the introduction, and she specifically mentioned not to use Wikipedia and explained why. On the day the students were supposed to turn in the assignment she noticed half the students had not used credible resources and some had still used Wikipedia, she also noticed that Sara did not have it finished. When she asked why Sara did not have the assignment, Sara explained that her family does not have a computer and her parents could not take her to the library because they were working. Another student named Todd over heard the conversation and starts making fun of Sara by saying things like “How can you not have a computer, do you live under a rock?” Sara became upset and left the room when the entire class started laughing. Right before class ended, Sara’s friend walked up to Mrs. Powell and told her that Sara’s family had recently lost their house and they were living with her Grandmother who does not own a computer. After the bell rings Sara wanders back into the room and collects her things. **How should Mrs. Powell Handle the situation? What should she say to Sara? To Todd? The class? How could Mrs. Powell keep from having problems like this in the future?**

Response:

Mrs. Powell should take Todd aside and tell him to be more respectful and tell him that some families are unable to acquire new technology. She should question Todd, ask him how he would feel if he was laughed at. Mrs. Powell can have him apologize and she can discuss with the entire class the importance of respect. She should also reference her rules and expectations of the class. For instance, in my classroom I plan on having one of the rules “Laugh with everyone, but laugh at no one”. Explain how in the classroom everyone needs to respect one another and that everyone is there to help each other.

When Sara enters the classroom, immediately apologize and ask how she is feeling. Let her know she is aware of her family situation and that she is able to help her if she needs anything at all. Refer her to the school counselor if her mood has changed. She could have her partner with her friend when group work is assigned.

By communicating frequently with the class about the rules, expectations, and ways of respect this could help future problems. As well as stating the consequences and following through with the discipline.