

CHAPTER 23

FASSOLD RULES.

It may seem a little bit egotistic to name rules after yourself; and it may step dangerously close to morphing into the “talks about themselves in the third person” guy, but give it a chance. In every classroom there needs to exist levels of laws/rules.

There is a fundamental need for higher laws in education. Those higher laws are those that extend *above* human laws; for example, equal education regardless of wealth, race, gender, or neighborhood. These higher laws must serve a just purpose and not lift one at the expense of another^{49,50} Probably few classrooms have the higher laws of education on the classroom walls or in the student handbook. What is the dominant law of the classroom are disguised as classroom rules⁵¹.

These classroom rules are either a list of don'ts or a list of don'ts disguised as do's⁵². Now classroom rules are important. So important I have two⁵³:

Rule 1: Never disturb my teaching.

Rule 2: Never disturb the learning of others.

Now I would argue that is a set of rules that are more important in your classroom. These would be your “truths”, your “class absolutes”, your classroom credo. These rules are worthy of publish and display. They guide you as a teacher-human and

⁴⁹ It is mandatory at this book in the book to accessing the internet and read Dr. Martin Luther King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail to understand the use of the “just”. Do it now.

⁵⁰ Dear person reading book, do not skip on your homework! What would John Green think? Go back and read the letter. Okay, you want the Common Core version. Here is the key paragraph that gives no concept to life, time, and influences: “Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust. All segregation statutes are unjust because segregation distorts the soul and damages the personality. It gives the segregator a false sense of superiority, and the segregated a false sense of inferiority.”

⁵¹ In know that is what student handbooks are for but the reality is that the kids don't read them and they only come into play after the rule broken.

⁵² Like the kids don't notice that “Don't talk when someone else is talking” and “Be a good listener when someone else is talking” is really the same rule.

⁵³ Rule 3: Laugh at all my funny sayings is still in draft form and will be unveiled when I am not as funny as I think I am now.

are so important they need to be passed down to the next generation through these student-humans. Students need to see that your teaching, subject, and world has rules; they need to know that your teaching world has structure and tangibility; and probably more importantly, transferability. They need to feel that their learning is greater than just that moment, but interconnects to other classes and even <shock breath sound> outside of school!⁵⁴.

These truths have evolved into my “Fassold Rules”. They bind my teaching to my students and my students to my class and this year’s class to Globetrotters of the past. Oddly, these rules are the only rules posted in my room. The rules have had a funny effect on the kids...they remember them and they feel special that they know



something that other people don't know because they do not have the shared experiences..."You have to be a Globetrotter⁵⁵ to understand" is heard a lot during the school. This all goes to my theory that kids want a sense of community or belonging to something greater than themselves. Thinking about this some more while writing this Chapter it has become clear that one of the critical things about the Fassold Rules is that help my students understand the mores of my room. It helps their comfort level. It provides a little more clarity to the world in G101.

⁵⁴ Shucks, so swimmingly savage set of sentences sewed seamlessly side-by-side.

⁵⁵ Our team is called the Globetrotters...more on that later.

FASSOLD RULE #1 - "IN ORDER FOR A MINORITY TO CONTROL A MAJORITY AGAINST ITS WILL, IT MUST USE FEAR OR FORCE."

My nephew Chris who teaches math at a private boarding school in Chattanooga, Tennessee is the first to understand that this has both a classroom and an historical application. Bravo to him.

For teachers the key phrase is "against its will". Show me a class where students are counting down the moments until the class ends and I will show you a class where the battle for control is the primary focus. Therefore, in order to keep from having to use fear and force to keep control of your classroom the students have to enter by there own choice.

However, in the context of my classroom I use this rule to explain how a government can bring violence onto its citizens; especially during the colonial period and its aftermath; for example, the actions of the South African government during the apartheid days of South Africa, the British in India, etc.

FASSOLD RULE #2 - "FAIR IS PLACE WHERE PIGS GO EARN RIBBONS."

I love to hear the words, "That is not fair⁵⁶." My answer is normally, "thank you". This causes a moment of stunned confusion. I let silence dominate the classroom for a couple minutes before asking them to tell me what fair means. The synonym that they normally come up with is "equal". For me equal in the classroom is a "participation ribbon".

I don't aspire to treat my students equal. I aspire to treat them justly. The difference is huge. Equal is the *opportunity* argument. In the opportunity argument the claim is that any student can open any door in America if they just work hard and stay focused on the goal. The reality is that is not true, doors open based on other factors equal to and more important than just hard work. As anyone who has ever applied for a job knows, connections matter more than qualifications. Our legal system has proven so many times, money matters in jurisprudence. The opportunity for the golden ring is

⁵⁶ There is no punctuation that adequately conveys the whining that normally accompanies the words so just imagine the sound.

not equal. Valedictorians from our large high school do not earn a spot in the Ivy League even though sons and daughters of the American aristocracy enter into Ivy League schools based on name over qualifications.

Therefore, I don't do fair. The only thing that matters is hard work to meet an individual goal that is set one notch higher than the last level you achieved. Teach your students the value of hard work, perseverance, and give them the thrill of real achievement.

FASSOLD RULE #3 – “FAITHFULNESS IS MORE VALUABLE THAN INTELLIGENCE.”

In my experience as a teacher the best students are not the always the most intelligent; on the contrary in fact. My teaching partner Tony is always able to pick out my student of the year pretty early⁵⁷. The profile is always the same; hard working and faithful. It is the extra effort that separates success and failure in my class.

No student that works hard does not do well in my class. In fact, in my experience there is no student that works hard that does not do well in school. This faithfulness to do the work that is expected, completed on-time, and at the best of that student's ability is the real recipe for success.

FASSOLD RULE #4 – “DON'T GO “BUMP, BUMP, BUMP”.”

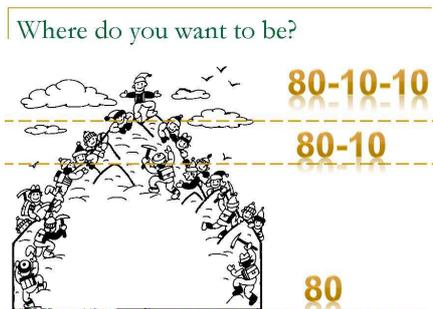
The opening paragraph of the classic book, Winnie-the-Pooh,

“Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs, but sometimes he feels that there really is another way, if only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it. And then he feels that perhaps there isn't. Anyhow, here he is at the bottom, and ready to be introduced to you. Winnie-the-Pooh.” -- Winnie-the-Pooh by A. A. Milne

There is something to be said about thinking things through when what you have been doing is not working. Addressing failed behavior is critical. Students need to learn the right path to accomplish goals.

⁵⁷ *What ever student has the highest grade in my class is my student of the year. It is too hard to pick a kid*

FASSOLD RULE #5 – “COOKIES ARE BETTER WITH SPRINKLES.”



I teach my students about the kind of effort that it takes to be successful in my class. Early in the year I take 20 minutes to teach the concept of 80, 80-10, and 80-10-10. The lesson starts with a cookie it represent what 80% of the folks complete when asked to complete something; they are not what I want from my students; standing out is better than standing in the shadows. I do not want students that do the bare minimum. I do want them to be a good student; I want them to be a great student. I want them to aspire to be the great friend, the great worker, the great parent.

I tell the story about how my Grandma Lunney was not an “80” grandma; she was in fact an “80-10” grandma because unlike 80% of the grandmas out there she did not stop at just a plain old cookie; no she would also add frosting to her cookies. This frosting set her cookies apart from most grandmothers. She would stand above those grandmothers. This is my desire for my near great students. I want them to stand above average. To feed from the troth of academic excellence.

But at the peak of academic excellence is the “80-10-10” student. I tell my students that my Grammy Lunney was not satisfied with even being an “80-10” grandma; at that moment I break out the sprinkles and add its sugary goodness to the



confectionary treat. The level of work is to be honored and revered. In my class it populates the walls and serves as the standard for the work of students in my class.

FASSOLD RULE #6 - "BEWARE THE STOBOR."

My favorite book is Robert Heinlein's *Tunnel in the Sky*. I have read the book pretty much every year since my teen years. In short, the book is set in the future where people who want leadership positions on other worlds must take an advanced survival class on another world. Some advanced students take the school in high school. As the high school class is ready to enter into the final exam, the gruff Dr. Matson gives each of his students a slip of paper that has written on it, "Beware the Stobor." The warning served to put the students on high alert. After the kids are rescued, the protagonist Rod Walker finds out that there is not any specific stobor.

The lesson is simple. Every endeavor worth taking has obstacles; otherwise it is not an endeavor. These obstacles are not to be feared so much, they are only to be anticipated.

I don't want my students to be stopped the first time something gets difficult to complete. In my class excuses are not allowed, because there is always a way around the challenge. Excuses are dangerous as they become easier and easier to use when the first sign of trouble appears. Teach your students to find ways around obstacles. Highlight moments in history when creative solutions were used to get around seemingly impossible obstacles.

FASSOLD RULE #7 - "YOU MUST CHANGE THE RULES OF THE GAME TO DEFEAT A KOBAYASHI MARU⁵⁸"

This is my Israel - Palestinian specific rule. There are other applications, but the point in my class is to explain that the Israeli - Palestinian peace process will never work until the rules of the game change; specifically, the rule where absolute ownership and absolute "right" is required to ensure one side wins over the other side.

⁵⁸ My homage to my favorite Star Trek movie, *Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan*. This movie was the reason I bought a video player. There was an epic man-cry when Spock and Kirk had their bromance goodbye.

There are other applications that I hope one day this memory will come back as a possible solution. I had a professor in college that talked about how the most extreme views on abortion find common ground on the issue of “women’s health”. This has always stuck in my mind that no matter how impossible a situation may seem there is some way to solve the problem⁵⁹.

FASSOLD RULE #8 – “BEWARE THE TRUCE OF THE BEAR”

We read Robert Heinlein’s Tunnel in the Sky as an alternative to Lord of the Flies which I find stilted for my seventh grade students. The survival teacher warns the story’s protagonist, Rod Walker, to beware the Truce of the Bear⁶⁰ in obvious reference to Kipling’s poem of the same.

The point of the poem is that even a bear that acts like a human asking for forgiveness is still a bear and will act as a bear. This can apply on some many levels:

1. The scumbag boyfriend who acts so sweet after the latest jerk episode.
2. The warrior race that feigns a desire for peace through appeasement.
3. The politician that makes claims that are counter to his or her voting record.

I guess this is just another version of my grandmother’s words would say about people that did disappointed any of us – “a leopard doesn’t change its spots.”

FASSOLD RULE #9 – “DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD, WHERE THERE WAS PROFIT TO BE MADE THE BRITISH WOULD BE THERE”

This is a pure history rule. The British Empire at its peak was a thing to behold. Churchill’s famous line about the sun never setting on empire could not have been more true.

FASSOLD RULE #10 – “SWAGGER” IS A POOR SUBSTITUTE FOR AN ACTUAL SKILL

⁵⁹ One thing that I tell my students and my own kids is that a solution may be with some pain, but the goal of solving the problem can be achieved. In conflicts between people it might mean you need to realize that you might be wrong and need to swallow your pride and admit your mistake. For all people this is a tough thing to do.

⁶⁰ I put a copy of the poem at the book’s Attachment 1. The attachment is the worksheet that students complete when reading the book.

I am old; therefore “look at me” actions cause my internal eye to roll completely around my skull. The superficial at the expense of something real is a problem that permeates American society; it is not a new thing it is just a contagion. There is a need to bring depth of our students. There is a need to raise the human experience for our students. We need to give them something to put forth something other than swagger.

FASSOLD RULE #11 – A MAN MORE JUST THAN HIS NEIGHBOR IS A MAJORITY OF ONE ALREADY – INSPIRED BY HDT⁶¹

This is the anthem of every rabble rouser in history; even if they did not understand the words of Henry David Thoreau. It is the call for action based on the moral high ground. It does not require a group of sycophants as supports. This is what separated Mahatma Gandhi, Lech Walenza, Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, St. Francis of Assissi, Michael Collins, and every other agent of change from the milling crowd.

FASSOLD RULE #12 – LUCK IS THE HOPE OF THE UNPREPARED

I don’t belief in luck. What people call luck can be separated into three different camps: (1) extra preparation by you, (2) the lack of preparation by them, and (3) statistical chance⁶². Part of my classroom mantra is to reward the faithful and punish the unfaithful beyond all comprehension.

There is no substitute for hard work⁶³. In school that hard work must be transferred to our students. If you want to give your students a solid foundation for the world, put some weight on their shoulders.

FASSOLD RULE #13 – SOMEONE HAS TO SALT THE FRIES

Call it like it is! There are behaviors that lead to the great jobs; hard work, faithfulness, and pushing through things that are tough. Students with these behaviors end up in good places in the world. They get the good job. The American dream is

⁶¹ Henry David Thoreau

⁶² If the New England Patriots played the New York Giants 1000 times in the 2007 Super Bowl, the Patriots would probably have won 999 of those games. It just so happened that the statistical chance of 1 chance in a 1000 happened. \$%^&*()

⁶³ Okay maybe being born with a silver spoon in your mouth would be better. But for those of us whose spoon was made of tarnished wood; hard work is all we have to go on.

theirs for the taking. On the other side of the coin there are behaviors that lead to “salting the fries”. We all have students that do little to nothing, are unfaithful, and fold at the first sign of trouble. It is not tough to pick those kids out in the classroom.

What is important is that we try to save the seemingly “unsaveable⁶⁴”. For those with some notches on their teacher belts, this can seem as fruitful as Don Quixote jousting with windmills. You lose a lot in this endeavor. There will be tears shed by you over some of these kids. The reality is that the flaws in most kids has been put their by someone else. Some of our kids are raised in homes empty of hopes and expectations. What is watered in kids grows. The responsibility falls on to the only place that should ALWAYS be there for kids...school.

FASSOLD RULE #14 – ALL EMPIRES FALL

“Yep they all fall.” “But, Mr. Fassold does that mean America will fall as an empire?” “Fassold rule #14 has never been disproven.”

It is interesting when we look at these great empires to track their rise and eventual fall. History is very good at providing lessons from the past. Dr. Jared Diamond’s work has been influential for me in looking at these cycles with an analytical view.

FASSOLD RULE #15 – THE PATH OF AKRASIA LEADS TO NOWHERE SPECIAL

So many students have met me at our school preview day before the first day of school and received an assignment to figure out what the word “akrasia” means and how does it apply to school. It is my opening salvo to kids who impress me from brief conversations.

⁶⁴ I am fairly sure that this is not a word, but it should be. Sure I could have used “unsalvageable”, but it seems to lose a little something.

Akrasia was first introduced to me by the brilliant big tobacco whistleblower, Jeffrey Wigand, when he visited our junior high after my beloved yearbook staff⁶⁵. The word cannot be found in a dictionary, but thanks to the internet its roots and meaning can be discovered. Akrasia means to “act against one’s better judgment”; basically, it is when you know what is the right thing to do, but do what you know is not good for you.

If you poll your students and ask them what successful students do; they can recite the traits. Why then if students know the traits do they not demonstrate these traits? It is because there is no one that holds them accountable for the path of akrasia; there is no one willing to take on the fight.

FASSOLD RULE #16 – FEAR DOES NOT MOTIVATE LONG TERM; BUT IS REAL EFFECTIVE IN THE SHORT TERM

In history there are so many examples where a powerful minority reigns harshly on to the majority of a citizenry. There is a scene from the movie Gandhi where Gandhi tells Maribel how for a time obstacles may say impossible to get past, but eventually the obstacle goes away. Genghis Khan was probably the most fearsome individual in history, but eventually he dies and centuries late so does his empire. History is filled with people that step above the fear for self and risk, and sometimes lose, their lives.

There is a classroom implication to this idea. If you subscribe to the “don’t smile until November” school of thought, you are probably going to wrestle with misbehavior or student growth will be hindered. There are ways to control a classroom, but fear may not give the results you desire.



⁶⁵ *This is some of my yearbook staff in Fall of 2013 when one of them married. These kids produced the greatest yearbook in my 12 years as an advisor. They took our school’s character traits and wrote leaders in all kinds of walks of life. Their hard work was inspirational and each one has gone on to success in their adult lives. They are family and occupy a part of my heart.*

FASSOLD RULE #17 – YOU ARE THE AVERAGE OF YOUR FIVE CLOSEST FRIENDS

In junior high peer group is everything. The desire for social acceptance is never higher on average and this drive for acceptance drives behavior, fashion⁶⁶, and even activities⁶⁷. I have used to rule when parents ask if their kids peer group is any group. A kid's peer group can lift a kid, but I have not seen one kid lift a group to be better people⁶⁸.

FASSOLD RULE #18 – YOUR OPINION DOES NOT MATTER IN THE EDUCATIONAL WORLD; ONLY YOUR OPINION THAT YOU SUPPORT MATTERS.

Opinions are like a five year old who refuses to try a food because they know they wouldn't like it. This lack of logic has frustrated parents without food insecurity since the beginning of parenting.

This generation and their parents have grown up in the shock culture of opinions. Blowhards on all sides of issues espouse opinions without the benefit support for the opinion. Sometimes the best you can hope for is a folksy tale about one person or family that beat the 1 in a 1000 odds to overcome the obstacle in their way.

As an historian my focus is to teach my students to think, analyze, and support anything they put forth in class. The phrase "just 'cause" does not get it done. As a teacher you need to demand logic and reason, because the world is lacking in these skills. The best canned program to teach this kind of thinking comes from Stanford University in their "Reading Like an Historian" program. This program pushes kids to analyze documents to understand concepts. If find this program superior to anything from the Common Core assessments, because the Stanford program depends on context



⁶⁶ Walk into any junior high and it appears to be fashion "group think". The money spent on Nike Elite socks would equal the GDP of an African country.

⁶⁷ You will hear, "I will try out if you will.", when announcements run for any activity, sport, or tryout. Nothing emboldens the spirit more than a friend experiencing the share doubts and pain.

⁶⁸ In most Disney movies the one cool kid raises the social game of the group, but in the "real world" this is not the case.

while the Common Core wants a “cold read” without background to level the “playing field⁶⁹.”

FASSOLD RULE #19 – SAYING A THING DOES NOT MAKE A THING⁷⁰

My grandparents and my mom greatly influenced me. Having a deadbeat father meant that there was a gap in the father figure in my life. My grandfather, who all the grandkids called “Bamp”, was that quiet role model for me. He was a quiet man until the “Irish” came out after a couple PBRs. He didn’t tell you he was a hard worker, he just worked hard; all the time. He didn’t tell you how he took care of his neighbors; he just took care of his neighbors.



Many a student has seen my one eyebrow go up and the words, “Fassold Rule #19” spoken when they bomb a simple quiz and insist that they studied. The reality is that “they studied” means that they remembered what the paper looked like and that they sort of remembered that they had a test.

In the end we are all judged by what we do, not what we say. If you say you teach because you love kids, but nothing in your day reveals love; Fassold Rule 19.

FASSOLD RULE #20 – YOU MISS EVERY QUESTION YOU DO NOT ANSWER

My sister Melissa was beautiful in high school and many a night she sat home because no boy called to ask her out on a date. There were probably many a boy who would have loved to go with Mim, but they were afraid to ask the question.

Every teacher’s classroom is filled with students who let the same opportunities pass by, because they are too afraid of being wrong. Teachers need to take control of this problem by getting rid of kids raising their hand in class; use stick, an app on your

⁶⁹ This is a real weakness in the Common Core reading assessments, because it is the context in history that is necessary to provide real understanding to the primary sources in history. It is the context that reveals bias and point of view.

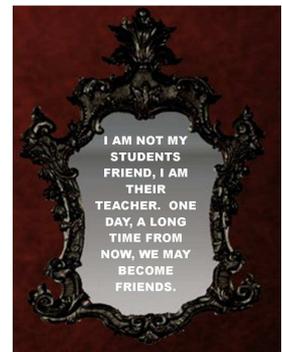


⁷⁰ “Stupid is as stupid does.”

I-Pad, or some mental rotating method to take the pressure off the kids. Learn to response to incorrect answers with leading questions that will lead them to the correct answer⁷¹. If there was one tool that should be put into every first year teacher it is the ability to ask questions and THEN progress with leading questions until the student gains at least a toe in the *water of academic truth*. “No, that is not right,” is a terrible way to end a student’s response. A great teacher can always find a way to connect to the connection that connects to the connected correct answer.

Fassold Rule #21 – A leader who tries to make everyone happy does not rule long

Speak the words on to whatever you hold sacred⁷²: “I am not my students’ friend, I am their teacher. One day, a long time from now, we may become friends.” Teachers that want to be friends with their students do not last long; friendly is fine, but friends, that is a big “no-no”. See friends can ask favors that you feel obligated to grant because you are friends⁷³.



Now from an historical purposes, the best kings cared for their subjects at the macro level, they did not worry if some of the kingdom was upset by the decision. Many years ago, my teacher partner⁷⁴ and I interviewed Dr. Chuck Leonard, the former superintendent of our district. He told us that when he made a decision if less than one-third of the people were upset with the decision he felt pretty good about it.

FASSOLD RULE #22 – ALL LION WORK IS “A+” WORK, BUT NOT ALL “A+” WORK IS LION WORK

⁷¹ I should add a rule that says, “Those with the most to say, say the least; and those with least to say, talk the most.”

⁷² The Holy Bible, the lives of your future children, a statue of Buddha, a pound of bacon, whatever.

⁷³ Friends come in 3 levels: Level 1: “You loan them a dollar, but you don’t keep track.”, Level 2: “Let them borrow your new car to impress a date even though they totaled their last two cars.”, and Level 3: “Help them hide the body.”



⁷⁴ My teaching partner, Tony, is a big Star Wars fan.

If you read the chapters in order the use of the word “lion” does not phase you. If not go back and read Chapter 25 – Creating a Classroom Culture. Lion’s work is refrigerator-worthy. My classroom walls and ceiling is filled with examples of lion’s work; my closets also have a lot of examples. People get an A+ with a completion grade⁷⁵, lions work get notice. I taunt my students. Since I do each project with my students, I post my project on the front board and tell them that anyone who has a better project than me will receive undying love and public recognition. I normally get crushed by 10 to 15 students. The display case in front of the library is my favorite place to get my public flogging.



Fassold Rule #23 – The needs of the one do not outweigh the needs of the many

My classroom is not chaos. Don’t get me wrong, there is laughter in my classroom. There is no sign on the front board that writes, “The beatings will continue until morale improves.” There is no universe where I will allow one person to distract from my teaching and my students from learning.

For example, school year 2013-2014 was the year of pencil tapping; the constant annoying drumming of the pencil. In the beginning of the year there was plenty of tappers, it is over now in my class. No one taps. There is not drumming. How did this miracle occur⁷⁶? I started out by explaining why pencil tapping is not allowed:

⁷⁵ Oh fiddlesticks. I need a new chapter called “Stop Grading for Completion”. <time lapse of 30 seconds> Done! Oh, I hate you overactive brain!



⁷⁶ I wish; there should be a lower voltage, teacher version; just enough to make them wet themselves and spasm.

When you do something annoying in class it indicates to everyone around you that are more important in this world than everyone else. Specifically, your need to announce to everyone that I am superior to you is constant. Just as I would not allow anyone to detract from your learning; your actions cannot harm the learning of others.

After that there is that calm James Spader voice⁷⁷ that lays out exactly what will happen. First, this is the only warning that will be given. After this point, you will be sent to sit in “near distance learning⁷⁸”. They stay is near distance learning until I forgive them; normally one week to one semester⁷⁹.

Fassold Rule #24 – If you build a shiny army; you will always use it

This is an historical rule. In history when any civilization undergoes a large build-up of the military they will eventually use the army to its political gain. Specifically, a shiny army is just too tempting a toy.

Fassold Rule #25 – A moment in history is the intersection of many cause and effect chains

For those of you that have seen Jurassic Park, this is the chaos theory. The chaos theory basically looks at every event as dependent on a near infinite number of events that came before and the every event will impact a near infinite number events in the future.

History is filled with what we call nexus moments. These moments are definable points in time that if this does not happen then the impact is clear. For example, if my mom had not decide to go to the movies in Presque Isle instead of going dancing in Mars Hill then she would never have met the DNA donor that would provide half my DNA.

Fassold Rule #26 – If it is important to you, you will find a way; if not, you will find an excuse.

⁷⁷ *Very calm, very detailed, and kind of creepy and intensive eye contact (people hate extensive eye contact).*

⁷⁸ *I have a couple spots in my room where there is a sign that says “Near Distance Learning”. The spots provide some view of me and little to no view to others.*

⁷⁹ *I am known as a slow forgiver.*

Excuses grate at my qi⁸⁰. The words, “I don’t care” have flow out of my mouth so many times as a teacher. In fact, part of my Back-to-School night presentation is that their child’s reasons for not doing something for me is silent words in a wind storm and that only the parent can provide them a “Get Out of Jail Free” card.



Students will think of a thousand possibilities and arguments for them to get the newest gaming system or see/be with their friends; but, some will not work on an assignment if they run out of .7 lead for their pencil.

Now sometimes our district’s motto of “the choices you make today shape your world tomorrow” favors some students. If one of my faithful, top students tells me that he or she forgot their assignment they hear the words, “no worries, bring in tomorrow, no penalty⁸¹.”

Fassold Rule #27 – Confidence is silent. Insecurities are loud

This rule is a cousin to Rules 23 and 29. There are people that like to hear the sound of their own voice. It is one of the reasons that I dislike meetings. One of my “stuck in meetings” games is to search the crowd to find the people who understand in silence. I make a bee-line to those folks during the breaks; they have something to say.

In the classroom, there are kids that will dominate the classroom conversation. Kill that as soon as you can. Once more take out raising of hands to answer questions and this will help this problem. For the terminally obnoxious give them two pennies and tell them that these represent the number of questions they get a class period; once the pennies are gone so are they.

Fassold Rule #28 – Integrity doesn’t require rules

Trust until it is betrayed. Treat them as if you trust them and the super-majority will reward your trust with integrity. Don’t sour on your kids.

⁸⁰ Qi (aka as chi or ch'i) in traditional Chinese culture means "natural energy" or "life force". If you play Words with Friends this is a life saver of a word when the letter "I" borders the triple-word score.

⁸¹ Remember that fair is a place where pigs go to earn ribbon. I sleep just fine rewarding a faithful kid.

Fassold Rule #29 - Those who have the most to add say the least, and those that talk the most have the least to add.

The cousin to Rule 27 is a reminder to myself to challenge the silent. There are kids in every classroom that have no interaction with the class even though they have so much to add to the conversation. I give those kids 2 pennies that indicate how many times that they need to contribute to the class. After a bit the pennies are no longer needed and they integrate into my class.

Fassold Laws and Rules

Education
Higher
Laws

Teacher
Rules

Classroom
Rules

1	All kids should receive the same educational experience regardless of wealth, race, place, and part of the country.	
2	All students deserve love.	
3	All students should be arrive with a clean slate; free from the burden of past mistakes and biases.	
4	Students should have no "safety" fears at schools. Specifically, no kid should be hungry, cold, and afraid of physical and emotional harm.	

1	In order for a minority to control a majority against its will, it must use fear or force.	9	During the colonial period, where there was profit to be made the British would be there.	17	You are the average of your five closest friends.
2	Fair is place where pigs go earn ribbons.	10	"Swagger" is a poor substitute for an actual skill.	18	Your opinion does not matter in the education world; only your opinion that you support matters.
3	Faithfulness is more valuable than intelligence.	11	A man more just than his neighbor is a majority of one already	19	Saying a thing does not make a thing.
4	Don't go bump, bump, bump.	12	Luck is the hope of the unprepared.	20	You miss every question you do not answer.
5	Cookies are better with sprinkles.	13	Someone has to salt the fries.	21	A leader who tries to make everyone happy does not rule long.
6	Beware the stobor.	14	All empires fall.	22	All lion work is "A+" work, but not all "A+" work is lion work.
7	You must change the rules of the game to defeat a Kobeyashi Maru.	15	The path of akrasia leads to nowhere special.	23	The needs of the one do not outweigh the needs of the many or the few.
8	Beware the <i>Truce of the Bear</i> .	16	Fear does NOT motivate long term; but is REAL effective in the short term.	24	If you build a shiny army; you will always use it.

1	Do nothing to disturb my teaching
2	Do nothing to disturb the learning of others.

So these are my rules. It is a Sisyphean task to try to explain my class to folks that are not in my class. My hope is that you will build that bridge between educational higher law and classroom rules.