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# CHAPTER ONE ---

## SIX BASIC COMPONENTS OF CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE AND MANAGEMENT

### I

#### CLASSROOMS ARE SYSTEMS

Classrooms are systems. If you want to have good discipline, then you must think of your classroom as a system, and you must manage it as a system.

Think of your classroom as a highway system with stoplights, intersecting roads, rules about turning, staying in the proper lane, etc. If we didn't have a system for highways and roads, driving would be impossible—or at least impossibly dangerous. Even when you know the system for driving and highways, you still have to watch each driver. But without a system, it would be total chaos. So your classroom must have a system.

Therefore, *within your classroom*, your system would do well to include the following:

	<b>ON THE HIGHWAY</b>	<b>IN YOUR CLASSROOM</b>
<b>PROCEDURES</b>	Which lane you are in, who goes first at a stop sign, etc.	How do students pass out papers? How do students put materials away?
<b>RULES</b>	When you stop and go, who has the right of way, etc.	What happens if a student cheats? If a cell phone rings during class? If a student curses? Etc.
<b>MOTIVATION (consequences and rewards)</b>	What motivates me to drive well? Example: Tickets, lower insurance rates for good driving, jail, etc.	What would motivate students to learn and behave?
<b>ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING</b>	Which is the best route to use? What do I need to take?	When are assignments due? How do students control impulsivity?
<b>SCHEDULES</b>	When do I need to leave to get there on time? Where do I need to go today?	What time does this subject or class start? What will happen next? When do students go to the next center or class?
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	Other drivers: How do all the drivers travel safely in the same space?	Students: How does a group of students work together safely and productively?
<b>PERSON IN CHARGE</b>	My driving: Am I aggressive, engaged in road rage, distracted by my cell phone?	Teacher: What is my approach to students when I discipline them?

Many beginning teachers don't address the classroom as a system. That would be like driving without knowing most of the pieces listed above. Use the checklist as a tool to know *your own* system.