The purpose of this activity is to raise awareness of the power of excuses in students’ lives. An excuse can be defined as anything that keeps you from doing what you want and need to do.

The list below includes many excuses students use in college. To create the activity, put each excuse on a piece of paper and place in a small paper bag.

**Group Activity:**

1. Split class into groups of 4 or 5.
2. Ask students to pull an excuse out of the bag and read it to their group.
3. The student will share whether they have used this excuse or not, and if so, have the student explain the circumstances of using the excuse. If the student has NOT used this excuse before, have the student think about an example of when a student may use this excuse.
4. Have student come up with a counter response for the excuse. For instance, if the excuse is “no one ever told me,” then a counter response might be “I should be listening better and asking more questions!”

The bag of excuses should go around a few times so that each students reads at least 3 excuses.

I didn’t do my work because the instructor just expects too much.

I just don’t feel like doing it!

I am not smart enough and probably couldn’t figure it out anyway.

I think I have a headache and don’t feel good.

I don’t want to take that class because my friends say it’s hard.

I am scared to take that class, so I’m waiting.

No one ever told me…

I really want to watch my show on Netflix, I can do my work after.

I don’t have enough time to everything I need to do.

I don’t know *how* to do that so I guess I will just wait.

I’m just too busy with other stuff right now to do that assignment.

I could probably do the work, but the teacher didn’t explain it well enough.

I don’t like to do my work in this class because I just hate this subject, it’s so boring.

I would have kept up with my assignments but I don’t have the book.

I couldn’t do the work because I didn’t get the instructions from the teacher….I missed that day of class.

Wild Card: Make up your own excuse and share with the group! You may even use an excuse you’ve used this week! ☺

Freebie! You are off the hook…pass the bag to the next person.

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