

The wisdom of seventh graders: Contributions to class discussion

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(In the continuing [sporadic series on the wisdom of seventh grade students](#).)

My friend the seventh grade teacher once had to deal with a class that had gotten out of hand by assigning the students a short essay in which they had to address three questions:

- How am I contributing to class?
- How am I detracting from class?
- How can I contribute more while detracting less?

One of the more disruptive students answered the questions thus:

- How am I contributing to class?
“I tell jokes.”
- How am I detracting from class?
“Sometimes I talk out of turn.”
- How can I contribute more while detracting less?
“Tell better jokes.”

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