

Self-Responsible Action Statements (MYSELF)

M: Mistakes are permitted here

Making mistakes is a powerful way to learn. Mistakes in school are often seen as something negative. Students often pay a high price for their mistakes. If we are afraid to make mistakes, we won't learn much.

Y: Your Behavior equals a choice

- In your own classroom, students make choices about:
- Turning in papers on time
- Turning in papers late
- Smiling
- Name-calling
- Slugging someone
- Talking things out

In this course, you make choices about:

- Submitting your assignments on time
- Submitting them late
- Logging into class early in the week
- Contributing to class discussions in the forum and chats

S: Speak up for yourself

Teachers aren't mind readers. Students need to understand how important it is to let you know if they don't understand something. They're not taking 100% responsibility for their learning if they don't ask questions and express themselves.

Likewise, if this course isn't meeting *your* needs, say so. Let your facilitator know via private Message what's not working for you.

E: Every problem is an opportunity

No one will ever be rid of problems. Problems provide data about what someone knows and what they need to learn. New problems spring from solutions to previous problems. Problems help students engage in the search for solutions. That is what self-responsible people do! That's one reason why teachers must help students see problems as good things, as opportunities.

L: Level of risk is your choice

What is involved in taking a risk? It means taking action even though you might fall. It's moving ahead even though you're a bit fearful. Feeling uncomfortable is not a reason not to do something. Some risks are worth taking. As a result of taking worthwhile risks, you can do more and learn more. Some students are unwilling to take risks, and that unwillingness hurts their performance.

Taking risks does not mean to take *foolish* risks. Risks in this context are those things that are valuable to do, but feel risky. If you prefer, use the words "stretch" or "challenge" instead of risk.

In this course each person is responsible for his or her own risks and the degree of risk he or she takes.

F: Finding solutions is the focus

Searching for solutions is a self-responsible mindset. Blame and punishment take a back seat to solving problems. The emphasis in this course is on solution seeking. Fault finding, blaming, and being right will be de-emphasized. Searching for solutions will hold a place of prominence.