

John Q. Student

English 9

Mrs. Manny Brown

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As Philip is sitting in Dr. Palleni's office, he is told "rules are rules"(62). This statement puzzles Philip as he sees no connection between this rule and the consequences of his actions. Philip, like many students, has a hard time seeing the connection between behaviors and the consequences for his actions. When one looks at this situation one could see many different ways this could have been resolved.

Philip seems to recognize that there are rules that must be followed. He made the conscience decision to disobey the school's rules of being quiet during the playing of the national anthem. He believes he is justified in his actions because he believes he is being patriotic. Philip is also conflicted because he claims he was able to sing or hum in his last homeroom. Despite being told by Ms. Narwin that it was not acceptable in her homeroom, Philip makes the conscience decision to break her rules. Whether or not Philip agrees with that rule, he knows the consequences for breaking it. He needs to be prepared for the results of his actions. Also, Philip could have spoken privately with Ms. Narwin, but instead he chooses to continue his actions. He does not act in a way that is proactive. Philip could take the time to try and explain to Ms. Narwin the motivation behind his actions but he does not. Ms. Narwin continually expresses her concern for Philip in many ways, for example she tells Dr. Palleni, "I don't want to give up on him yet" (90). This does not seem like a

statement someone would make if she were “out to get someone.” One could conclude that Ms. Narwin is not acting out of spite or because she does not like Philip.

Rules are rules. That is a true statement, but some proactive steps from Philip could have prevented this situation. Instead, he chooses to ignore the consequences of his actions and now he has to pay the price.