Focus on the Behavior You Want to See

Name: __________________________ Date: __________________________

Please read the following scenario:

Erik is talking to a friend while his class is supposed to be silently reading a short story. His teacher, Mr. James, approaches and says, “You are supposed to be reading the short story. It is not appropriate to be talking with friends.” Erik rudely talks back to Mr. James and starts to argue with him. The arguing continues until Mr. James asks Erik to go to the main office for the rest of the class period. Erik successfully avoids reading the short story, which is often a frustrating activity for him.

This situation provides an example of a coercive relationship between Erik and Mr. James. Considering what you have learned in this lesson, how could Mr. James have handled the situation differently to more effectively deal with Erik’s coercive behaviors? Using the following questions as a guide, describe how Mr. James could use the strategy presented in this lesson to deal with Erik’s coercive behavior.

1. What is the challenging behavior in this situation?

2. What is the desired behavior in this situation?

3. Based on what you have learned in this lesson, how should Mr. James approach Erik?

4. How could Mr. James rephrase his demand as a gentle, learning-focused prompt? What could he say?

5. Why would this prompt be less likely to incite Erik’s coercive behavior?

6. What should Mr. James do after giving the learning-focused prompt?

7. How could Mr. James reinforce Erik after he complies with the request to read the short story?
Describe the behavior:

1. What does the behavior of concern look like when it happens?

2. What should the behavior look like (i.e., what behavior should you teach)?

Describe the conditions around the behavior:

3. When does the behavior take place?

4. What specifically occurs before the behavior takes place?

5. How do people respond to the behavior after it takes place?

Consider the options presented for the above scenario:

6. Which of the options (above) would you choose to use to address the challenging behavior? What is your reasoning for choosing this option over the other options?
**BM-S3:** Demonstrate the use of different methods to intervene proactively to change and maintain behavior

**BM-S4:** Ability to implement remedial techniques in academic skill areas with learners.

**BM-S5:** Ability to use materials designed for skill development in the social areas.

7. Would you apply this strategy **before, during, or after** the challenging behavior occurs? What is your reasoning for this?

8. Imagine that you need to tell another paraprofessional how s/he should respond to the challenging behavior described in the scenario. Describe in detail, step by step, how this paraprofessional should carry out the strategy that you chose to use.