**Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Homeroom**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***The Importance of Attending Class***

**Directions**: Read the following article and answer the questions that follow.



Absence from school keeps kids from getting the consistent instruction they need to build on basic skills. For kids with learning and thinking differences, there’s something else to consider: Frequent absences not only mean less instruction, but also missed opportunities for re-teaching and enrichment.

Research shows how big the impact can be. A study in California looked at kids who were absent more than 10 days in both kindergarten and first grade. By the end of third grade, only one in six of them were grade level readers. But of the kids who missed less than 5 percent of school days, two-thirds were proficient[[1]](#footnote-1).

For some kids, frequent absences can become a long-term habit. Research shows that kids who are allowed to miss school when they’re young are more likely to skip school when they’re older. And that can lead to other consequences.

Being chronically[[2]](#footnote-2) absent affects high school graduation rates and the chances for success in college. In a Rhode Island study only 11 percent of high school students with chronic absences made it to their second year of college. That’s compared to 51 percent of students who didn’t miss that much school.

Plus, each day of learning builds on the previous day. When kids miss a few days in a row, it can be hard to follow later lessons. And when kids aren’t in school, they’re missing opportunities to be identified for intervention and extra supports.

**Reflection Questions for *The Importance of Attending Class***

**Directions:** In your neatest handwriting and in complete sentences, answer the following questions.

1. From the article above, what are the two most harmful consequences of being absent? Why?

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1. Why is it important for younger students to regularly attend class? What can happen if they don’t?

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1. Which of these negative consequences did you find most surprising? Why?

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**Stamp Your Learning for *The Importance of Attending Class***

**Directions:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Imagine that a friend of yours started skipping class and didn’t think it was a big deal. What you would say to convince them to start attending more often? Cite at least two facts from this article.

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1. In one artful sentence, explain why missing a lot of school can impact a student negatively in the long run.

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1. Describe one thing from this article that you want to remember that will help motivate you to attend class as often as you can.

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1. **proficient**: good at doing something [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **chronically**: occurring frequently or most of the time [↑](#footnote-ref-2)