

Name _____

Date _____

Class Period _____

Weekly Article #7*

While reading, circle the word or phrase in each paragraph that answers the question: Who or what is this paragraph about?

A Bad Apology Is Worse Than No Apology

Excerpt from *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch pgs. 161-163

Apologies are not pass/fail. I always told my students: When giving an apology, any performance lower than an A really doesn't cut it.

Halfhearted or insincere apologies are often worse than not apologizing at all because recipients find them insulting. If you've done something wrong in your dealings with another person, it's as if there's an infection in your relationship. A good apology is like an antibiotic; a bad apology is like rubbing salt into the wound.

Working in groups was crucial in my classes, and friction between students was unavoidable. Some students wouldn't pull their load. Others were so full of themselves that they'd **belittle** their partners. By mid-semester, apologies were *always* in order. When students wouldn't do it, everything would spin out of control. So I'd often give my little routine about apologies.

I'd start by describing the **two classic bad apologies**:

- 1) "I'm sorry you feel hurt by what I've done." (This is an attempt at an emotional **salve**, but it's obvious you don't want to put any medicine in the wound.)
- 2) "I apologize for what I did, but you also need to apologize to me for what you've done." (That's not giving an apology. That's asking for one.)

Proper apologies have three parts:

- 1) What I did was wrong.
- 2) I feel badly that I hurt you.
- 3) How do I make this better?

Yes, some people may take advantage of you when answering three. But most people will be genuinely appreciative of make-good efforts. They may tell you how to make it better in some small, easy way. And often, they'll work harder to help make things better themselves.



Students would say to me: "What if you apologize and the other person doesn't apologize back?" I'd tell them: "That's not something you can control, so don't let it eat at you."

If other people owe you an apology, and your words of apology to them are proper and heartfelt, you may still not hear from them for a while. After all, what are the odds that they get to the right emotional place to apologize at the exact moment you do? So just be patient. Many times in my career, I saw students apologize, and then several days later, their teammates came around. Your patience will be both appreciated and rewarded.

<p>Write a main (central) idea sentence in your own words:</p> <p>What are three supporting details?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•••	<p>Take a stand</p> <p>Do you agree or disagree with the argument presented in this excerpt?</p> <p>Explain why.</p>
<p>Vocabulary:</p> <p>Define salve:</p> <p>Define belittle:</p>	<p>Reflection:</p> <p>The author gives a list of steps on what an apology needs to be a good apology. Create your own list of what you think needs to be in a good apology.</p>

RI.8. 1-2: Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text; Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.