



Positive Classroom Culture:



Strategies for Engaging Disengaged Students

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The Glitter Year

Flip That Role

- "Tell me and I forget, show me and I remember, involve me and I understand."
- In the book: *Understanding by Design (UbD)*, authors make a call for educators to reflect on how they balance the following three teaching roles:
 - *Facilitation*: open-ended questioning, problem posing, Socratic seminar, and guided inquiry
 - *Direct instruction*: demonstration, modeling, and lecturing
 - *Coaching*: providing feedback, conferencing, and guided practice
 - Credit: - Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe

Strategy 1: Essential Questions and Inquiry Units

- Student Centered classrooms often begin with a question
- The teacher is the facilitator
- The student is "the owner" of the learning
- Student moves to center stage and teacher assumes a supporting role
- Inquiry can be a powerful teacher



Student Centered Questions: The Ingredients

- (1) The question should be interesting and compelling to your students right now!
- (2) It should invite them into the ongoing disciplinary debates and conversations that create knowledge in the first place.
- (3) It should require students to learn – and to use – the same understandings and strategies as the real experts in the field.
 - *Credit -Jeffrey D. Wilhelm is a professor of education at Boise State University.*

Do What, Now? Inquiry Based Units...

- Ex: read a variety of informational and narrative texts and learn about the features of these texts; on topic of choice **"STAMP OF APPROVAL"**
- Compare what they have learned about topic in general and in specific cases. Real Life Application **"Okay, I can hang with this."**
- Create multimodal exhibits of habitats with labels of important features **"ARE YOU KIDDING ME RIGHT NOW?"**
- Try role-play, even viewing/arguing/speaking about the topic from the different perspectives and various life forms. **"Um. No."**
- REMEMBER: These are all strategies that are emphasized by the Common Core State Standards, from elementary through secondary school.



Students as Teachers



Strategy 2: Be the Fool

- They will be excited about what you are excited about
- Make your classroom a safe place to nerd it out
- Pick big umbrella themes that can incorporate many standards
- Create culminating events



Strategy 3: Morning Meeting

- Set the tone for respectful learning
- Establish a climate of trust
- Motivate students to feel significant
- Create empathy and encourage collaboration
- Support social, emotional and academic learning
- Consists of: greeting, sharing, group activity, and announcements
- Can be no longer than 15-25 minutes
- Include a response to a morning message (Problem of the Day, Journal Response, Daily Math/Language Review)
- Set learning goals (I can statements)
- Responsive classroom handout

Morning Meeting

Community Begins with the Morning Meeting

Play video clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiuAFOv8www>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttO-nPfivu8>

Strategy 4: They Like Themselves More Than They Like You

- Let them teach themselves
- Give them scripts
- Have them record themselves using technology
- Ask them: What do you want to be an EXPERT on?
What findings can you share from your research?

What Do You Want to be an Expert On?



Strategy 5: Looks Like, Sounds Like, Feels Like

- Make a lesson with a specific learning goal/product
- What does the discussion need to sound like?
- What should NOT be present in the discussion?
- What does the product need to look like?
- What should I feel like (author, scientist, historian, mathematician)?

What Should it Sound Like?



Strategy 6: The Strongest Voice In The Room

- How can I facilitate learning without being the strongest voice in the room?
- Examine objectives closely. How can you shift the lesson to make it student centered?
- Common Core lesson demonstration
- Fishbowl Strategy:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFr9iLY7zdc>

Informative Writing



I leave you with this challenge. Go make fools of yourselves...it will benefit both you and the students.



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