Creating a Positive Classroom Community

Mari Bodensteiner – January, 2018
• define classroom communities
• understand the importance of a positive classroom community
• share strategies & activities to build a classroom community
Classroom Community
students feel **cared about** and are encouraged to care about each other.

they experience a sense of **being valued** and **respected**.

the students **matter** to one another and to the teacher.

they are part of an “**us**”

“Beyond Discipline: From Compliance to Community,” Kohn, 2006, p. 101
Exit Slips

Today I learned, . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>things that I learned today . . .</th>
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<table>
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<th>things that I found interesting . . .</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>question that I have . . .</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
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Classroom Agreement

- don’t be late
- don’t use your cell phone
- don’t talk while other students are talking
- don’t be lazy
- don’t turn in homework late

Classroom Agreement

- be on time
- keep cell phone in your bag
- listen while other students are talking
- be an active learner
- do your homework on time
Student Questionnaire/Survey Example

1. What are your interests and hobbies? ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

2. What is your favorite subject in school? _______________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

3. What do you want to do in the future? _______________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

4. What is something that I should know about you? ________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
Classroom Routines and Student Responsibilities
Review

Classroom Routines

4. What is something that I should know about you? ___________

__________________________

__________________________
Activities to Create a Classroom Community

- Two Truths and a Lie
- All About Me
- Would you rather . . . ?
- Quiz, Quiz, Trade
- Memory Maker
All About Me

- Introduction to public speaking
- One student presents each day
Two Truths and a Lie

Example
I have two younger sisters.
I speak French.
I have been to China.

Which sentence is false?
Two Truths and a Lie

Modifications

Specific Topics/Content
- travel, sports, health, around town

Specific Grammar Tenses
- present tense, past tense, present perfect, future

Example
I have traveled to Singapore.
I lived in Laos.
I will go to Germany in March.
Would you rather...?

Example
Would you rather read a book or watch a movie?

Example
Would you rather do all your friend’s laundry for a year or wash all your friend’s dishes?

AE Activate
Would You Rather? Have You Ever? Oh, When?
Quiz, Quiz, Trade

Directions

- Students find a partner.
- Student A asks question.
- Student B answers.

- Then student B asks question and student A answers.
- *Then*, the students have to **switch** question cards, and find a **new** partner.

- The students are then asking a different question *and* answering a different question.

Modification

*Find your Match*
Quiz, Quiz, Trade

A: Red ↔ Yellow → B
C: Green ↔ Blue → D
E: Purple ↔ Black → F
B: Red ↔ Blue → C
F: Yellow ↔ Red → C
D: Black ↔ Green → B
Memory Maker

- Last day of class activity
- Positive feelings
Thank you for always being the first to participate in class.

You had great ideas during our group project.

Thank you for helping me study before the final exam.

You’re always so positive!!

Thanks for always smiling!

Memory Maker
Activities to Create a Classroom Community

- Two Truths and a Lie
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- Memory Maker
What are you already doing in your classroom to build a community?
Questions
“A person who feels appreciated will always do more than expected.”
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Resources

• **Involving Students in Classroom Routines and Processes**
  – [https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/topic_1_-_students_class_routines_final.pdf](https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/topic_1_-_students_class_routines_final.pdf)

• **Harmonious Learning: Yoga in the English Language Classroom**
  – [https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/49_4_2_morgan_0.pdf](https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/49_4_2_morgan_0.pdf)

• **Teacher Development - What Works in the ELT Classroom? Using Robust Reasoning to Find Out**

• **Instant Feedback for Learner Training: Using Individual Assessment Cards**
  – [https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/02-40-4-f.pdf](https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/02-40-4-f.pdf)

• **Positive Language in the EFL Class**

• **Creating Positive Attitudes Towards English as a Foreign Language**
  – [https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/06-44-4-b.pdf](https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/06-44-4-b.pdf)

• **Constructivism in Theory and in Practice**
  – [https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/06-44-4-c.pdf](https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/06-44-4-c.pdf)

• **Teacher’s Corner: Classroom Management**
  – [https://americanenglish.state.gov/resources/teachers-corner-classroom-management](https://americanenglish.state.gov/resources/teachers-corner-classroom-management)

• **Changing Homework Habits: Rethinking Attitudes**
  – [https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/03-41-4-k.pdf](https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/03-41-4-k.pdf)

• **Ten Characteristics of a Good Teacher**

• **Teacher’s Corner: Fostering Student Motivation**
  – [https://americanenglish.state.gov/resources/teachers-corner-fostering-student-motivation](https://americanenglish.state.gov/resources/teachers-corner-fostering-student-motivation)

• **Back to School: A Surefire Strategy for Building Classroom Community**