

CREATING A POSITIVE CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

Teachers do a lot to prepare for a new class. However, despite weeks, even months, of preparation, teachers find that some classes don't do very well and others come out better than expected. What makes the difference between a class experience that is positive for both students and teachers and a class experience that is disappointing? Often the difference comes in the first few days of a new class. These first days are critical in setting the stage for the rest of the course. Teachers and students can use the early part of a course to make expectations clear, to develop routines and relationships, and to set a tone of positivity and encouragement that can continue through the whole term. In short, an important (some say essential) step in developing a great class is building a strong classroom community.

In this month's Teacher's Corner, we examine what teachers can do to create a positive and successful learning environment for all members of the classroom community. In Week 1, you'll find a series of strategies and techniques to promote a strong sense of community in your classroom. Week 2 offers an activity on how to make expectations clear so that everyone in the class is set up for success. In Week 3, you'll learn about a simple, regular activity that can encourage student-to-student and student-to-teacher relationships as a way to promote feelings of community and shared responsibility in the classroom. Finally, Week 4 offers a way to get students interacting and talking through writing.

Additional Resources

For additional information about creating a positive classroom community, check out the resources listed here and many others available on the American English website:

- [Teacher's Corner: Promoting Learner Engagement](#)
- [Book Clubs as a Tool for Community Building and Language Enhancement](#)