

Classroom Environment

Helpful Things to Ponder

- ◆ Multi-media materials
- ◆ Culturally competent materials (resources, displays, arts, gadgets, etc...)
- ◆ Teaming (ex. Special Education, ELL, Specials)
- ◆ Involving students in creating the environment
- ◆ Mutually respectful
- ◆ Continuing to assess students & how they change
- ◆ Stimulating environment
- ◆ Positive environment
- ◆ Create safe environment
- ◆ Consider learning styles, culture, different abilities, skills/talents
- ◆ Create norms, guidelines, - generate with students
- ◆ Clarity of expectations, norms - no secrets!
- ◆ Expectations of respectful language in class
- ◆ Teachers – being real, showing students what you're about, your culture and your background
- ◆ See student as child, not just as a student
- ◆ Brain-based/multiple intelligences
- ◆ Structure/set-up of classroom conducive to learning (windows, no rows, room to move). Having permission to set up room the way you want
- ◆ Overall respect for school, not just classroom
- ◆ Availability of resources to enhance classroom (healthy classroom)
- ◆ Safety: to learn and share with each other and the teacher not being the know it all. But in some cultures it is the teacher who is supposed to know. Maybe

local teachers. Safe to express, to include parents etc. To know and discuss norms and values of the culture and have each explain how and why it works for them and theirs.

Destructive Things to Avoid

- ◆ Teacher at the front – “lecture series” (Can’t pick up on things going on in the classroom)
- ◆ Rigidity
- ◆ One size fits all
- ◆ No clear expectations
- ◆ No sharing, interaction, bonding
- ◆ Preferences – students focus on one learning style only
- ◆ Unsafe environment
- ◆ Sarcasm
- ◆ Value-based
- ◆ Variety, Not standardized, test with knowledge not known to students.