

Relationship Building Activities

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In my future classroom, I plan to foster an environment in which my students feel safe, comfortable, and enjoy learning. To do this, relationship building will be essential. After learning about the importance of building relationships in class and researching some activities, I have come up with a short list of the ones I find most important that I will implement in the classroom.

One of the first relationship building activities that I would like to implement is coming up with classroom rules as a class. Giving students a chance to share their input will show that their thoughts and opinions are valued (Harmon , 2017). The way I would do this is by stating some things that I would expect from them while I am speaking, such as not using cell phones unless they are told, or raising their hands. Then, I would ask my students what type of expectations they would like from their fellow classmates during class. Some examples might be to not talk while classmates are talking, or being respectful and constructive during peer review activities. I would hold a classroom discussion where I will describe the difference between constructive feedback and plain criticism. Afterwards, I will ask for examples of each to make sure it is understood. By creating classroom rules together, I believe that students will have a greater sense of accountability for their actions, and not want to break the expectations that they came up with themselves. It is also imperative that I make my high expectations in the regard well known, as this will set the precedent of my expectations (Milner, H. Richard, IV; Cunningham, Heather B. (Bossert); Delale-O'Connor, Lori; Kestenberg, Erika Gold 2019). The way I would like to do this activity is by allowing students to write on a large piece of paper that we could keep in the classroom to serve as a reminder throughout the year. cared for.

The next relationship building activity is to help me get to know my students better. I would like to have an “All about me” activity in the beginning of the year where students can share information about themselves such as their favorite color, favorite movie, interests and hobbies. An idea that I came up with to do this is with a worksheet that students would fill out, and I think it would be fun for it to have a social media theme. For example, their sheet of paper would be their “profile”, and on it, would be a space for their “profile picture”- which can be a hand drawn portrait or a printed picture of something they like. Questions like the ones I mentioned previously will be on the assignment. With their consent, the “social media profiles” will be displayed in the room on a designated classroom wall so that students can view them and learn about their classmates as well . Additionally, I would like to add a separate part to this activity where students can let me know of things they would like from a teacher. Because I will be teaching English, I think the “perfect classroom” activity is very fitting (Hopkins, 2020). During this exercise, students will describe their perfect classroom setting and the type of environment they like their classroom to have (Hopkins 2020). This will be helpful to me as a teacher because I can use their feedback in figuring out how to structure the class in a way that will make my students feel comfortable.

To ensure that I am connecting with my students daily, I will also greet them at the door before each class. In my experience, even if the teacher was not always standing at the door, making a point to greet everyone individually and by name went a long way by making me feel seen and valued. Another component I would like to add to this is during these greetings, playing relaxing music in the classroom for the first few minutes, during which students do not have to sit down right away, but can use the time for themselves. In class, we had a discussion about

how, as teachers, we can sometimes forget how it is to be a student. Because students sit for such long periods of time each day, I think that allowing them a few minutes to settle in and relax before class will be beneficial for them mentally and allow time for them to stretch and unwind before class, which will hopefully promote engagement .

Overall, these relationship building activities will help me create a classroom environment that is more conducive to learning because of the relationships I will be building throughout the school year. The activities I chose are ones that, in my experience, I appreciated as a student, or that I think would have made my classroom experience better. I plan to expand upon these ideas and add more activities to my list to use as tools to foster a positive learning environment each school year.

References

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