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Creating a Classroom Community

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Introduction
My self-study was inspired by my desire to develop a classroom community where authentic learning can take place. My self-study focuses on my role, as a pre-service teacher and leader in the classroom and school context, in creating an engaging learning environment where students who are disenchanted with the learning process can achieve academically and socially.

Point of Departure
Does creating a classroom community positively influence student participation and academic performance?

Methodology
- Collect and study existing data made available by other scholars
- Integrate students’ opinions and suggestions for the following: instruction, assessment, decision-making, classroom aesthetics
- Integrate supplemental materials that appeal to the interests of individuals and group
- Encourage personal reflection
- Invite student participation and sharing
- Celebrate personal and collective achievement
- Invite verbal and written criticism from students, supervising professor, and cooperating teachers

Participants
I conducted research in two Junior Literature and Composition Essentials classes. There was a mixed group of twenty-six student participants involved in the study. Eighty percent of students in the sample group have an IEP.

Feedback
This class surpassed my willingness and my positivity to learn. Her support was positive and positive.

Despite the struggles I began to see a strong bond with the students. We enjoyed being there and they were willing to help.

This was a very active class with great deal of participation and interest.

Preliminary Findings
- Students are willing to share work with teacher and peers
- Students actively participate in group discussions
- Students give serious and insightful feedback and suggestions
- Students keep one another accountable
- Students enjoy seeing their work displayed
- Creating a classroom community can be easily integrated into everyday planning and preparation
- Creating a rapport with students allows teachers to be less dependent on administration for classroom management

Student Work