

Classroom Layout

As a default classroom setting, I prefer to have students sit in groups of 4-6, facing one another. I keep an adequate margin of space between the desks to allow for ease of movement between them, so that students can reach their desks easily and so that I can walk around the classroom without difficulty. I prefer that no students sit with their backs to the front of the room, so that every student can easily see the whiteboard while still working at their desks. For this reason, some of the desk groups are rotated for easier viewing. I keep my desk at the back of the room to allow me to easily observe all classroom activity, and to minimize tampering with teacher-only materials. Separate from all the other desks, I keep a “Quiet Desk” for students to use for individual needs (see Rules and Procedures). I also keep a comfortable reading area as a reward for students who finish their work early (see Rules and Procedures). If the school provides a laptop cart or overhead cart, these will be placed off to the side of the whiteboard, near the entrance. This arrangement reflects my instructional emphasis on collaboration and communication between students, and can be seen in the Appendix.

The Comfy Corner contains the classroom library, bean-bag chairs, yoga mats, pillows, clipboards, and lap desks. The library is organized by genre with teacher-approved free-read books selected to get students interested in reading (*The Giver*, *Percy Jackson*, *Harry Potter*, *Ender’s Game*, *Uglies*, etc.), and it also contains an index of free online books for students to read on their electronic devices (see Appendix C). For students who want to take books home, there is a check-out sheet. Each storage location could be either a bookshelf or a filing cabinet, or something of that assortment. Storage 1 has materials that I primarily use, such as binders of lesson plans, substitute plans, fire drill binders, etc. Storage 2 is intended for classroom sets of textbooks. Storage 3 has materials for student use, like multicolored paper, pens, pencils, lined

paper, markers, crayons, folders, whiteboards, Expo markers, pencil sharpeners, Sharpies, tape, staplers, class discussion stoplights, extra chargers, etc. Students can also store their in-class materials here. Storage 4 will be a shorter set of shelves, so that items can be placed on top of it like a desk. On top of Storage 4 is a floating file box for absent work, sorted by date, and The Big Black Box of Everything, in which students turn in anything and everything. On top of Storage 4 will also be a location for any hand-outs that I want students to grab at the beginning of class.

On the walls of the classroom, I will have photo frames featuring quotes, both inspirational and goofy. I will also have a laminated poster that reads, “What stuck with you today?” for students to post their exit-ticket sticky notes on, hung near the door. Bathroom passes, hall passes, and a sign-out sheet will also be hung near the door, and the bathroom passes will be small hand sanitizer containers connected to lanyards. One wall will have a bulletin-board-sized display sectioned off for unit-specific decorations (mythology themed for a mythology unit, etc.). I will have colorful, layered borders around the classroom’s windows, including any windows on doors. Other decorations include large letters that read “EXPLORE,” a sign-post with multiple signs pointing toward fictional locations, and a world map. Depending on school policy, I can also include a shoe hanger and surge protectors that function as a phone charging station. I will also have a section of wall dedicated to displaying the classroom rules.

Appendix

