

Building Community: Preparing For the 'New' Student

Seminar for Teaching Inclusivity
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Defining Community

- Community is a sense of connection with others as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and/or goals.
- In a community members have a sense of belonging.
- Today your table will be a community.
- Based on the two definitions I have given, discuss the attributes that make your table a community and list them on the 3x5 card at your table.

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Belonging is essential to community

- Inclusion is another word for belonging
 - A mindset
 - An attitude
 - A Belief
 - Not a favor for someone
 - Not a program
 - Not synonymous for conforming to the social norms



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Making the 21st Century Classroom a Community

- Currently our classrooms do not foster inclusion, instead they foster exclusion or a false diversity
- Classrooms needs to utilize purposeful technology
- Include global connections
- Expose learners to new cultures
- Learning spaces should be student centered

The 4 Steps to Creating an Inclusive Classroom

- Beliefs set the focus
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Learning together
- Reduce Barriers to Learning

Beliefs set the focus

- As the instructor our beliefs about our students set the focus on how we approach teaching
 - I believe all of my students can be successful
 - Every student can learn
 - How do I get my students to value different experiences, people, cultures and worldviews
 - How can I help each of my students work to their strengths

Emotional and Social Learning

- This teaches students :
 - Self-regulation
 - Collaboration-
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Empathy
 - Generosity
- Students need to learn
 - That how we feel impacts how learn
 - The environment impacts our focus
 - Each of us have strengths and weakness
 - We all have different intelligences
 - When we work from our strengths it builds confidence
 - Tasks that challenge us help us to develop

Learning Together

- Encourage interdependence in students
- Build Relationships helps to recognize others abilities
- Building relationships encourages a sense of accountability and responsibility
- Collaboration fosters using one another strengths to create a effective problem solving
- Collaboration also helps us to appreciate diversity

Reducing Barriers to Learning

- Create tasks that can adapt to a learners abilities
- Create spaces that are inclusive to all learners
- Use a variety of teaching and sources
- Use different method of assessing comprehension and mastery
- Utilize tasks that challenge and allow for demonstration of different levels of abilities
- Provide multiple forms of feedback

An inclusive classroom is building a community that is accessible to all.

Question and Answer


