

# The Art and Science of Effective Classroom Management Syllabus



## Overview

Every teacher dreams of having the perfect classroom where every student enjoys learning, scores high on standardized tests, and respects the teacher. Dream world? Maybe, but some teachers do manage to run a classroom effectively and efficiently, while others seem to constantly struggle with behavior problems that keep them from teaching their students.

The difference lies in classroom management. Today's research shows more and more that classroom management has the greatest effect on student achievement (Marzano, "The Key to Classroom Management." *Educational Leadership*, September, 2003). Good classroom managers plan everything from the first day of school - from the time the opening bell rings to the closing bell. They are constantly watching and anticipating situations that might cause problems and they are prepared to handle situations on their own. They have rules, procedures, and consequences for breaking the rules, which they publicize to their students. And they respect the worth and individuality of every student they teach.

Part of being a good teacher is art - knowing your content area and being willing to listen to your instincts about what to do in the classroom. But there is also a science to being a teacher. You can learn strategies that will help you be a better classroom manager. That's what this course is all about. Whether you are a new teacher or an experienced teacher who just wants to reaffirm what you've learned before, this course will share strategies that will help you to be a better classroom manager.

## Objectives

Participants will:

- Learn about the elements of successful classroom management.
- Recognize what makes an effective teacher.
- Identify characteristics and strategies for creating a positive environment.
- Design classroom rules and procedures.
- Design a syllabus or letter for the first day of school.
- Create a lesson plan that manages time effectively and actively engages students.
- Identify learning styles and teaching styles and how they affect classroom management.
- Design a plan for dealing with behavior problems.

## Online Learner Expectations

Each session will have readings, an activity for you to complete within the week, a journal reflection, and a discussion board. Log in at least three times a week, the first time early in the week. Be sure to post your work well before the end of the session. It is our estimate that each week's assignments should take roughly five to seven hours to complete. Although you are not required to read everything in the course links, the more you read, the more you will benefit from the information.

The discussion board is a critical part of the online learning experience because active discussion is what fosters the best learning environment. You are encouraged to participate in the discussion board as much as you can. Most discussion board assignments call for response, whether silent rumination or actual written commenting-so give your peers time to think and write by posting as early as you can during the week. Post thoughtful comments. Simply posting 'I disagree' with no explanation doesn't help anyone! Ask yourself, "How can I move this discussion and everyone's understanding forward with my response?" and "What are others saying that is helping me move forward?" Acknowledge these building blocks for your thinking.

Respond to the comments of others respectfully. Please refer to [Netiquette](#) for additional guidelines.

The journal assignment is an opportunity for you to reflect on what you've read in the content or in the articles. Although it does not have to be long - 1/2 page to a page is usually appropriate - we do ask that you give thoughtful responses to the questions. These will only be read by the facilitator.

Notify your Instructor if you will be gone for any extended time.

### Content:

Session 1: What makes an effective teacher?

Session 2: How do I set the right tone?

Session 3: What do I do on the first day of school?

Session 4: How do I keep everything running smoothly?

Session 5: How do I keep my students actively engaged?

Session 6: What do I do when students misbehave?

