

10

things to make a classroom

GREAT!

A STUDENTS PERSPECTIVE

NOT GREAT By: A Fifth Grader

What makes a classroom boring?

GREAT!

- 1 When the class is quiet, it feels uncomfortable. I wouldn't encourage kids to be quiet unless it's necessary.
- 2 If the teacher is bored, we can tell. It really impacts the classroom.
- 3 Learning the same lesson over and over is reallyyyy boring especially if it happens across a whole week.
- 4 The word "shhhhhh" is pretty annoying.
- 5 If the teacher talks a whole lot, but doesn't let us kids talk, I don't like that.
- 6 It's boring when we don't get a challenge.
- 7 We don't connect when there is no sharing things about yourself as a person and teacher.
- 8 I have a hard time when a teacher uses things against us like "Bob, you know you've used the bathroom 2 times today!" Why say that?
- 9 It is also hard when the teacher only talks about herself/himself/themselves and there is no space for us.
- 10 Having to read with no partner or no read aloud isn't fun for me. Sometimes reading independently is boring.

- 1 It is great when we get to share out even if it is not about the lesson.
- 2 Bring in a 30 second dance party button!
- 3 If a teacher makes you feel confident in yourself, it usually makes things more positive for me.
- 4 **Ice breakers are so fun!** They are like mini games that help us get to know each other (It is best to start at the beginning of the year, but then keep going!)
- 5 When I get to be creative, this is the funnest part of school (I am have no idea if most schools have arts, but we need it!)
- 6 Teachers, wear your favorite colors or funny hats, or themes days. That is fun!
- 7 Ask us how we are doing? Ask us about our weekends? Ask us something every Monday.
- 8 Every grade should have a show and tell. It just makes me look forward to the day. We get to share and I learn about my classmates.
- 9 Group us with other students.
- 10 **SEL** (*Social emotional learning - note - yes, student did spell it out*) is my favorite subject

Student Disclaimer: Adults may not agree with me on some of these things



Educator Reflection

- What is your immediate reaction to the students ideas (mind, body, spiti)?
- What is this student asking us to do?
- What is this student asking us to stop?
- Where is this student calling us to stretch?
- How can we incorporate this student's reflections into a classroom...TOMORROW?

Whole Class Task Directions:

- 1 **Bring students together to share your hopes that the classroom can be a great place for all.**
- 2 **Let students know you need their advice and input.**
- 3 **Ask students to develop an individual list of 5-10 things that can make a classroom boring vs. 5 things that can make a classroom fun.**
- 4 **Review the student responses with a few colleagues.**
- 5 **Categorize them by student response (Be verbatim, do not interpret).**
- 6 **Identify 2-3 categories you want to take on in your lesson design. Choose 1-2 changes you can make right away (Ex. dance party button or show and tell). Identify 1-2 that will require help from students.**
- 7 **Bring your reflections to your students - Be honest about how you made your choice and let students know what you will do with the rest (Ex. I would like to begin with these three to practice them. Over the year, I will keep adding in more).**
- 8 **Do a design session with your students based on 1-2 inquiry questions from your chose categories (Ex. How do we create more time to talk with each other in our day?). Brainstorm together. Build on their ideas. If you need a scaffold, identify a high leverage block of time like math. Actually break it down into its parts and find ways to add in talk time.**
- 9 **Try it out.**
- 10 **Get student feedback on what you tried (Ex. What worked for our class? What did not?). Implement the feedback and try it again.**