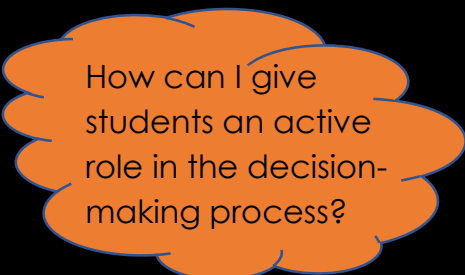


Developing a Democratic Classroom . . .

OSU Motivation in Classrooms Lab – Motivation Minute. December 2021.



How to facilitate student autonomy and engagement!

Democratic Classrooms: “The democratic classroom should be understood as a place where a total development of the student's personality is achieved, a place where the processes of humanization, personalization, and socialization are taking place” (Kocoska, 2009). See figure ➡



- **Specifically**, democracy within a classroom can vary considerably depending on the context. Students may get to choose what they do in class, or may simply get to vote or voice their opinions. Regardless, the intent is always to give students voice, choice, and social awareness.
- ***Democratic Classrooms require students to think critically, but also help them practice critical thinking skills. The process may start out rough, but with practice, democratic classrooms can become an effective and valuable learning tool.**

Within a Democratic Classroom...

Humanization	
Humanization happens when students feel... Confident and Brave Appreciated A Sense of Belonging	Teachers can foster Active Listening and Opinion Validation. These are essential! - “What can I do as a teacher?” <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Encourage students to participate, actively listen to others, and give positive feedback- Let them know their ideas are valid- Treat students equitably
Personalization	
Personalization happens when students learn... Decision-Making Critical Thinking Classroom Engagement	Teachers can promote decision-making and knowledge presenting. - “How can I help my students develop effectively?” <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Present students with opportunities to choose their work for the day, but provide structure to get students started- Ask questions that encourage perspective-taking- Encourage students to assist others in learning
Socialization	
Socialization happens when students can... Make responsible decisions supported by logic and empathy Defend their decisions and take responsibility for the consequences Feel comfortable rationally discussing disagreements with others	Teachers can nurture social interactions within a democratic classroom. – “How can I ensure my students are strengthening their social skills while also learning the curriculum?” <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Begin instruction with collaboration to set expectations for the day, unit, or activity- Understand questions about boundaries and explain in a student-focused way (e.g., explaining limiting cellphone usage as a way to protect the privacy of students, not to control them)- Genuinely ask for student input on policies and advocate with administration and policymakers

Reflection Questions

- Were all of my students able to voice their opinions?
- How can I help students feel safer to socialize and work together?
- Was the activity well received by students?
- Was the learning objective still met?
- Rose-Bud-Thorn – What went well, what is something to build upon, and what could be improved upon?

Resources

von Duyke, K. (2018, April). *Why do urban schools discipline, why not democracy?* [Video]. TED Conferences. https://www.ted.com/talks/katherine_von_duyke_why_do_urban_schools_discipline_why_not_democracy

Hamzah, L. M., & Hussien, S. B. (2020). The impacts of democratic classrooms on students' personal growth. *Social Science Learning Education Journal*, 5(05), 126-130. <https://doi.org/10.15520/sslej.v5i05.2670>

Kocoska, J. (2009). The student's position in the democratic classroom. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 1(1), 2429-2431. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2009.01.427>