

Chapter 10: Managing the Classroom Environment

From Meh to Magic: Strategies for Engaging the Modern Learner

Lesson Overview	Key 21 st Century Skills
In this lesson, students will explore various techniques utilized to increase student engagement in the classroom. Students will analyze strategies that foster participation, motivation, and active learning. Additionally, students will design a physical classroom layout that incorporates engagement-boosting elements.	• collaboration • communication • creativity • critical thinking • problem-solving

Standard(s):

5.1: Students will employ strategies to cultivate a safe, inclusive, and positive learning environment that promotes student engagement.

5.2: Students will research and implement effective strategies in managing student behavior and fostering classroom engagement.

6.3: Students will critically assess and compare various instructional strategies, using data and evidence to determine their effectiveness and appropriateness in diverse classroom settings.

Objective(s):

- Students will analyze and apply various techniques for increasing student engagement, including instructional strategies, behavior techniques, and classroom design elements, to develop an engagement-focused classroom layout.

Essential Question(s):

- What factors contribute to student engagement in a classroom setting?
- How can instructional techniques enhance student participation and motivation?
- How does physical classroom design impact student engagement?

Time:

90 minutes (and time outside of class to complete the assessment)

Instructor Note(s):

Note that you may need to connect with your school/district's IT department, prior to the lesson, to ensure access to digital sites and platforms is not blocked.

Be sure to prepare the materials for the stations prior to teaching this lesson. The stations will need to be set up prior to class.

Before the lesson, make copies of the *Classroom Routine Scenarios* and then laminate for later use.

Activities:

1. Provide all students with the following:

- *Stand-Up, Sit-Down Statements*
- *Think, Write, Reveal Activity Response Sheet*
- Chromebook or digital device for Station 3

- Sticky notes for Station 4
2. Divide students into four groups and have them rotate through four interactive stations, each highlighting a different engagement technique. Every 15 minutes, groups will transition to the next station, actively experiencing each strategy and reflecting before moving on.

Station 1: Stand-Up, Sit-Down Activity

- a. Select one person from the group to be the designated reader.
- b. Listen closely as the designated reader reads each statement on the front of the 9x12 envelope.
- c. If you think a statement is true, stand up. If you think a statement is false, stay seated. Be sure to record on the handout, *Stand-Up, Sit Down Statements*, whether you stood or sat for each statement.
- d. After all statements have been read, open the envelope and remove the answer key. Discuss the correct answers with your group.

Station 2: Think, Write, and Reveal Activity

- a. The group will respond to the questions on *Think, Write, and Reveal Activity Response Sheet*.
- b. Next, students will compare their answers to the correct responses provided on the *Think, Write, and Reveal Activity Answer Key* located inside the 9x12 envelope.
- c. Lastly, the group will discuss the following questions:
 - Did your answers match the correct answers?
 - If not, what new information did you learn?

Station 3: Gamification Mini-Activity

- a. Students will participate in a Kahoot! quiz or an escape-room-style puzzle to learn how gamification increases student engagement and motivation.
- b. Students will discuss how a points system, competition, and rewards can be used to motivate learners.
- c. Afterwards, students will share at least one gamification strategy they could implement in their future classrooms.

Station 4: Classroom Routines & Student Choice Activity

- a. Read the provided classroom routine scenarios.
- b. Work with your group to create a routine that would help students stay engaged and on task during each of the described scenarios.
- c. Write the routine on a sticky note and place it in the correct quadrant on the chart paper labeled "Effective Routines."

Materials:

- Projector or Smart Board/Promethean Panel
- Two 9x12 envelopes
- Handouts:
 - Stand-Up, Sit-Down Statements* (for each student and the outside of the station envelope)
 - Stand-Up, Sit-Down Statements Answer Key* (for the inside of the envelope)
 - Think, Write, and Reveal Activity Response Sheet* (for each student)

Think, Write, and Reveal Response Activity Answer Key (for inside the envelope)

- Kahoot! quiz or escape-room-style puzzle
- Digital devices for students
- *Classroom Routine Scenarios*
- Chart paper labeled “Effective Classroom Routines” and divided into four quadrants (Scenarios 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Markers and sticky notes
- Floor plan template, movable cutouts, or digital design tools

 Assessment(s):

- In groups, or individually, students will design a classroom layout using flexible seating options to optimize student engagement, collaboration, and learning. Using a classroom floor plan template and moveable cutouts (representing desks, tables, seating, standing desks, beanbags, and other elements) or digital design tools, students will create an intentional seating arrangement. Once their designs are complete, students will take a picture of (or sketch) their floor plans and write a brief justification explaining how the layouts support student engagement, collaboration, and learning.

