



Creating a Welcoming Classroom Environment

In this Quick Coaching Guide:

- Getting Started
- Taking Stock
- Ensure Your Classroom Represents Your Students
- Next Steps



GETTING STARTED

What Is a Classroom Environment That Represents Students?

A classroom that represents students is one that tells their story even when they aren't present. Learning goals are prominently displayed, indicating their importance in classroom life. Class-created anchor charts hang on the wall in places that are easily accessible, reflect current study topics, and capture information that supports student progress. Considerable space is devoted to student work—both in-progress and complete—giving voice to the individual and providing a window into their cultures, interests, strengths, and priorities.

Why Should a Classroom Represent Students?

Students and their teacher spend a considerable amount of the day in their classroom, which is one of the reasons the classroom space itself should reflect the learners working within it. A classroom that represents students sends several important messages to learners:

I belong in this space. I am a member of this academic community. This classroom is mine and ours.

My teacher and peers know me: what I want to learn, what I'm interested in, and what I'm working on right now.

The work I do here is important to me and to this community.

This is an environment designed for me to learn. I can find success here.

TAKING STOCK

Reflect on how your classroom currently represents your learners by considering the following:

- ◆ How are students' learning goals represented?
- ◆ How is student work (both in-progress and completed) displayed?
- ◆ How are students' strengths, interests, cultures, and developmental needs represented?
- ◆ How are current topics of study represented in ways that support learning?
- ◆ How does the classroom communicate that each student is part of this academic community?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....