

Our Classroom Paradigm

What Students Think

- How is it going to be in here for me?
- Will I be affirmed in here?
- Will what goes on in here be meaningful for me?
- Will I be satisfied with the challenges?
- Will my teacher like me?
- Will things be fair in this class?

What Students Seek

1. **Affirmation:** I am accepted and safe. Others acknowledge and respond to my interests. People listen to and believe in me. I feel supported.
2. **Contribution:** I make a difference. I can help others. I bring perspectives that are unique.
3. **Power:** What I learn is useful to me. I know how to apply it. I know what quality is and how to achieve it. I know what is expected of me.
4. **Purpose:** I see significance in what we do. The work we do will make a difference. I take an interest in the work.
5. **Challenge:** The work challenges me and draws upon my abilities. I am held accountable and grow as a result. I accomplish things here that I did not realize I could do, before.

Teacher Responses to What Students Seek

1. **Invitation:** I want to know you. You are unique. I believe in you. I have time for you. I learn when I listen. We need you here.
2. **Opportunity:** I have important things for you to do. They will open new possibilities, help you be more efficient, and they are worth your time and attention.
3. **Investment:** I work hard and enjoy making this place work for you. I love to find new ways to succeed and it is my job to help you do so as well. I am your partner.
4. **Persistence:** You are growing but are not finished. When something does not work, we should look for alternatives. Excuses are not allowed, but support is always available. There is no end to learning.
5. **Reflection:** I watch and listen to you. I use what I learn to help you learn better. I try to see things through your eyes. I continually ask myself, “how can I improve the process?” and “how can I make our relationship better?”