

Portfolio Practice

Select Standard: 1, Creating and maintaining a positive classroom environment that promotes student learning.

Select substandard: *1 d. Establish a civic classroom based on caring, responsibility, and respect for diversity.*

Rationale: Write 1-2 sentences about why you selected the substandard

My class started the year out being very unfriendly and not working together at all. I needed to do something to make them work as a group.

Artifact: Describe the artifact you would use to show how you made changes in your classroom, curriculum, or procedures.

I decided to use the book Synergetic Classroom Discipline by C.M. Charles to learn about class meetings. William Glaser's Class meetings were described in the book. I photocopied the chapter on classroom meetings as an artifact. I then made a poster of our Classroom Agreements which are included in this portfolio. I have a schedule of the meetings we held in the month of September and October.

Write a reflection (remember, this is to demonstrate a teacher's experience over time as it relates to student learning)

a. What did you do? *I surveyed my students during the second week of school concerning their feelings about the way students were behaving in class during cooperative learning time..*

b. How did it work out?

I learned that the majority of the class were unhappy with the way it was working and that some of the students didn't have to do anything in the groups and some did all of the work

c. What changes did you make?

I conducted 2 months of classroom meetings. At the beginning I found that I was doing most of the talking. I had to do many 'warm-up' activities with this process before we started discussing cooperative learning sessions. Once the students were able to conduct the Class Meetings and discuss their issues, we were able to discuss classroom procedures and how we should behave during group learning times.

During the sessions I learned that many of the children were really confused with their responsibilities when we worked as groups. Many of the students had been in groups for years without doing any task where they had personal responsibility.

We started over, learning how to conduct groups. We decided that the groups would be individually graded and receive a project grade as well.

d. What were the results as measured by student learning?

Prior to the two months of classroom meetings I was spending a lot of time disciplining students. I was unable to participate with any of the groups as a member or mentor. After the groups understood and practiced the procedure, I was able to rotate to every group every day and see all of the members adding value to the team.

e. What will you do next time?

I will pre-teach cooperative learning strategies before I use them and monitor the class for understanding.