



# Creating a Classroom Community

## Competency

Educator understands the importance of building key relationships for a positive classroom community.

## Key Method

The educator creates a classroom culture that cultivates relationships among all learners, which ensures a sense of belonging and value for each learner.

## Method Components

### Cultivating Relationships Among All Learners

Educators should first demonstrate knowledge that the learners in the room include both the students and teacher. Therefore, positive relationships must be established between all of the learners in the classroom. Below, you will find some examples of how this can be done:

- Create and display a space in your classroom where all learners can post pictures of themselves, their hobbies, and their likes and dislikes
- Activities that encourage learners to learn each other's names and learn more about each other's cultures, backgrounds, and other characteristics
- Team-building activities
- Encouraging the sharing of ideas
- Invite parents into the classroom and include them in the learning



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Creating a sense of belonging and value for each learner  
Educators should demonstrate and model appropriate social skills, including communication, conflict resolution, tolerance, and acceptance.

- Teach learners how to participate in class meetings
- Teach learners how to work collaboratively
- Model and allow learners to resolve conflicts peacefully
- Develop a space where diversity is accepted and encouraged
- Assess the individual needs of learners
- Incorporate tasks that make connections with the lives and cultures of all learners
- Allow a space for the learners' choices and voice

## Supporting Rationale and Research

Evertson, C.M., & Weinstein, C.S. (2013). *Handbook of classroom management: Research, practice, and contemporary issues*. New York, NY: Routledge.  
[https://www.academia.edu/823019/Handbook\\_of\\_classroom\\_management\\_Research\\_practice\\_and\\_contemporary\\_issues](https://www.academia.edu/823019/Handbook_of_classroom_management_Research_practice_and_contemporary_issues)

Marzano, R., & Marzano, J. (2021, June 29). *The Key to Classroom Management*. ASCD. <https://www.ascd.org/el/articles/the-key-to-classroom-management>

## Resources

Readings

[Belonging in the Middle Grades](#)

[Responsive Classroom: Empathy is the Key](#)

[14 Ways to Cultivate Classroom Chemistry](#)

Tools

[Creating a Classroom Community](#) Lesson Plan



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# Submission Guidelines & Evaluation Criteria

*To earn the micro-credential, you must receive a passing score in Parts 1 and 3, and be proficient for all components in Part 2.*

## Part 1. Overview Questions (Provides Context)

300-500 words

*Please use the suggested word count as a guide to answer the following contextual questions. This will help our assessor understand your current context for working on this micro-credential.*

*Please do not include any information that will make you identifiable to your reviewers.*

- What background information is important to know to understand the context of your classroom? Consider things such as grade level, subject area, any relevant cultural information, and special considerations regarding student characteristics. Be mindful not to reveal anything confidential about a student.
- Taking into consideration the details you have already included, are there any specific social skills you feel need to be addressed in your classroom?
- In what ways are parents an important part of your classroom community?
- What barriers, if any, exist that might prevent parents from becoming actively engaged in your classroom's community of learners?

**Passing:** Educator response addresses all required components as outlined in the overview section. Supporting evidence includes specific examples from the classroom. Writing is organized and easy to understand.

## Part 2. Work Examples/Artifacts/Evidence

To earn this micro-credentials please submit the following three artifacts as evidence of your learning.

*\*Please do not include any information that will make you or your students identifiable to your reviewers.*

**Artifact 1:** Lesson Plan



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Using the strategies discussed in the Method Components, plan a lesson and implement an activity to build community in your classroom.

Lesson Plan/Activity should include the following:

- Opportunity for students to learn that cultivating relationships among all learners is necessary in order to create a healthy learning environment
- Opportunity for students to learn that creating a sense of belonging and value for each learner is important to support the academic and social emotional needs of the classroom community
- Student product that shows an understanding of their role within the classroom community
- Parent engagement component where student work can be shared OR parents can be engaged in the learning process

### **Artifact 2:** Student Engagement

Choose one of the following three options to show evidence of the learning opportunity and activity you created for students:

1. Upload a two- to four-minute video of the learners engaged in the activity. Provide a written explanation of what happened. Also, if anything particularly interesting occurred, or was said, it should be included in the explanation. In addition, please provide a written explanation of how students met the learning outcomes of the lesson plan/activity. Suggested word count 250-350
2. Create a photo essay showing learners engaged in the activity (can be a slideshow or document of 10-15 pictures) For each photo, provide a brief description of what happened. Also, if anything particularly interesting occurred or was said, it should be provided in the description. In addition, please provide a written explanation of how students met the learning outcomes of the lesson plan/activity. Suggested word count for each description 20-50
3. Provide three student work samples from the activity. For each work sample, please provide a brief description of the student who created the work and why you chose this particular example to share (please remember to be mindful not to reveal anything confidential about a student) Be sure to include how this work ties directly to the learning plan/activity. In addition, please provide a written explanation of how the work samples chosen show that students met the learning outcomes of the lesson plan/activity. Suggested word count 200-300

### **Artifact 3:** Parent Engagement



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Create a photo essay showing active parent engagement in your classroom community (can be a slideshow or document of 10-15 pictures).

This photo essay must be tied directly to the lesson plan/activity that was created and implemented for this micro-credential.

For each photo, provide a brief description of what happened. Suggested word count for each description 20-50

## Part 2. Rubric

Artifact	Proficient	Basic	Developing
Artifact 1 Lesson Plan	<p>Lesson plan incorporates at least one strategy from each of the following sub-descriptions found in the Method Components Section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cultivating relationships among all learners</li> <li>-Creating a sense of belonging and value for each learner</li> </ul> <p>Lesson plan includes all four elements as outlined in the description of Artifact 1.</p>	<p>Lesson plan incorporates at least one strategy from one of the following sub-descriptions found in the Method Components Section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cultivating relationships among all learners</li> <li>-Creating a sense of belonging and value for each learner</li> </ul> <p>Lesson plan includes 2-3 of the four elements as outlined in the description of Artifact 1.</p>	<p>Lesson plan does not incorporate at least one strategy from one of the following sub-descriptions found in the Method Components Section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cultivating relationships among all learners</li> <li>-Creating a sense of belonging and value for each learner</li> </ul> <p>Lesson plan includes 1 of the four elements as outlined in the description of Artifact 1.</p>



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Artifact 2 Student Engagement	Option selected (Video, Photo Essay, or Student Work) shows authentic student engagement in the learning plan/activity	Option selected (Video, Photo Essay, or Student Work) shows some student engagement in the learning plan/activity	Option selected (Video, Photo Essay, or Student Work) shows minimal student engagement in the learning plan/activity
	Written description provides strong evidence of: -What happened during the learning plan/activity -How students met the established learning outcomes for the learning plan/activity	Written description provides some evidence of: -What happened during the learning plan/activity -How students met the established learning outcomes for the learning plan/activity	Written description provides little evidence of: -What happened during the learning plan/activity -How students met the established learning outcomes for the learning plan/activity
Artifact 3 Parent Engagement	Photo essay description includes strong evidence that shows: -active parental engagement -how parental engagement is directly tied to the learning plan/activity that was implemented in class	Photo essay description includes some evidence that shows: -active parental engagement -how parental engagement is directly tied to the learning plan/activity that was implemented in class	Photo essay description includes minimal evidence that shows: -active parental engagement -how parental engagement is directly tied to the learning plan/activity that was implemented in class



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## Part 3 Reflection

450 to 550 words

Use the word count as a guide to write a personal reflection about your work on this micro-credential. For tips on writing a good reflection review the following resource:

[How Do I Write a Good Personal Reflection?](#)

*Please do not include any information that will make you identifiable to your reviewers.*

Reflect on creating a classroom community. Please address the following guiding questions:

- How will you use this learning to further develop how you build relationships and community within your classroom?
- What specific actions will you take to create a sense of belonging and value for each learner in your classroom while considering points of diversity?
- What will you do to build a culture of equity in your classroom?
- How will you continue to create opportunities for parents to become involved in your classroom community?

**Passing:** Educator completely addresses each of the guiding questions. Writing is organized, easy to understand, and includes details and specific actions that can be used in the classroom.



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