



Organizing the Physical Layout of the Classroom

Competency

Educator demonstrates an understanding of how organizing the physical layout of the classroom can contribute to a positive learning environment.

Key Method

The educator designs workspaces that support student navigation and student focus on instruction and allow for the celebration of student work. The educator understands that the design of a classroom space engages all learners in a successful, social, kinesthetic, and cooperative environment has positive effects on learning and the community.

Method Components

Educators understand that classroom environments deeply affect learner roles, responsibilities, expectations, and outcomes. They recognize, through reflective practice, the learning needs of each of their students and design the physical layout of the classroom in a way that enhances learning and encourages an environment of growth, discovery, and celebration. Educators adjust their classrooms to meet unique learner needs and situations. They design the classroom space with safety, accessibility, learning, and the display of information in mind.

Key elements of effective classroom design:



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- The physical layout of the classroom allows for safe and easy access to materials and work spaces.
- Examples of learners' works enhance the workspace, allowing for reflection and celebration; additionally, displays allow for documentation and additional information about current units of instruction.
- The classroom environment explicitly fosters and supports inclusion, diversity, equity, and cultural competency that includes and exceeds the demographics of the student body.
- Classroom design reduces distractions and makes the most use of available space.

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

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

[A Veteran Teacher Turned Coach Shadows Two Students](#)
[Education by Design: Challenging the Traditional Definition of a Learning Space](#)
[How Classroom Design Affects Student Engagement](#)
[Rethinking the Classroom](#)

Tools and Support

[Classroom Design Rubric](#)
[iMovie Support](#)
[Photo Essays to Impress](#)
[5 Tips for Creating a Photo Essay](#)

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.



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Part 1. Overview Questions (Provides Context)

400 to 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.

1. 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.
2. Describe the physical layout of your classroom and the subjects taught. Discuss any special considerations and accommodations to support learners in your classroom.
3. How is your classroom design student-centered and celebratory of learning and your classroom's collective culture?

Passing: Educator response addresses all required components as outlined in the overview section. Supporting evidence clearly illustrates deliberate intentions for classroom design. Writing is organized and easy to understand.

Part 2. Work Examples/Artifacts/Evidence

To earn this micro-credential 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: Comparison

Suggested word count 550-650

Evaluate another learning space in your building that is different from your classroom. Compare this learning space to your classroom's physical layout. Describe the similarities and differences between the two learning spaces using the Key Elements as discussed in Method Components.

Artifact 2: Showcase

Choose **one** of the following to show your classroom design (**note: your choice here will pair with the analysis in the third artifact**)



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- Upload a two- to four-minute video showing the physical layout of your classroom. Narrate and/or caption your film.
- Draw a map of the physical layout of your classroom. Please label key areas. Upload a photo of your drawing.
- Create a photo essay showing the physical layout of your classroom (can be a slideshow or document of 15-20 photos). Caption each photo.

Artifact 3: Showcase Analysis

Suggested word count 350-450

Connect your choice for Artifact #2 (video/photo/drawing) to a written analysis that includes the following information:

- Describe the assets and the limitations that exist in the physical space of your classroom.
- Describe how your classroom is organized in such a way that enhances learners' ability to focus on instruction.
- Describe how your classroom supports diversity and inclusion.
- Explain the rationale behind the items that you choose to decorate your learning space with.
- Explain how learning is supported through the use of different spaces within your design.
- Describe how the physical layout enhances the learners' ability to contribute to their learning and engage in appropriate, respectful behavior.
- Explain how the design of classroom space is safe and allows for ease of movement and monitoring.
- Identify how your classroom design supports your district's or school's philosophy and initiatives.

Part 2. Rubric

	Proficient	Basic	Developing
Artifact #1: Comparison	Response is concise, thoughtful, and uses all of the Key Elements, as outlined in the Method Components, to fully	Describes two learning spaces but does not use all of the Key Elements (as outlined in the Method Components) to fully describe the	Describes learning spaces with such little detail that the evaluator cannot form a clear picture of the intention of the learning spaces.



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	describe the similarities and differences between two different learning spaces.	similarities and differences between two different learning spaces.	
Artifact 2: Showcase AND Artifact 3: Showcase and Analysis	Video has clear narration; drawing is clearly labeled; photo essay's captions enhance viewing. Selected medium clearly shows a complete picture of the physical layout of the classroom.	Video has clear narration; drawing is clearly labeled; photo essay's captions enhance viewing. Selected medium shows a partially complete picture of the physical layout of the classroom.	Showcase artifact was not submitted or was not viewable.
	Showcase analysis is concise, thoughtful, and addresses all questions as outlined in the section requirements.	Showcase analysis addresses some of the questions as outlined in the section requirements.	Showcase analysis is incomplete and does not address questions as outlined in the section requirements.
Presentation	Writing is well organized. There are no grammatical errors.	Writing is well organized. Grammatical errors are minor in nature and do not affect the reader's understanding.	Organization of writing distracts the reader. Grammatical errors are significant in nature and impede the reader's understanding.

Part 3 Reflection

400 to 600 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:



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

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

Please reflect on your professional learning as you completed this micro-credential. Be sure to address the following questions in your response:

1. How has the examination of your classroom space impacted your current practice?
2. How has the use of physical space impacted student engagement and behavior?
3. What changes, if any, did you make to the physical layout of your classroom? Why or why not?
4. How does the physical layout of your classroom support diversity and inclusion?
5. Describe what you learned about yourself in your use of space and your organization of the physical layout of your classroom.

Passing: The response addresses all guiding questions with descriptions that relate to the educator's current setting. Personal examples and supporting evidence are used to convey a complete message. Writing is concise, organized, and free from any significant errors.



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