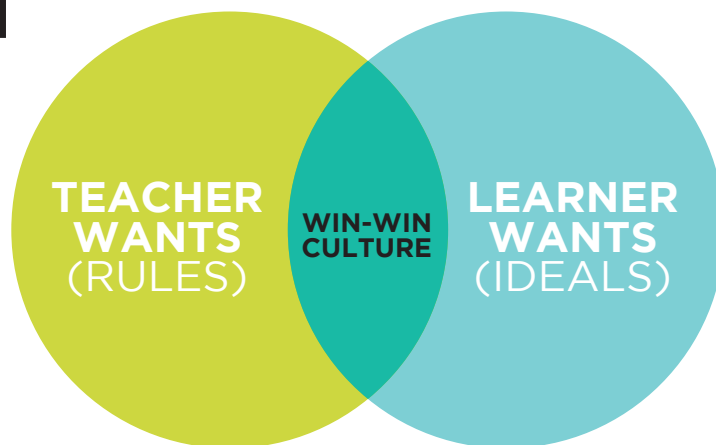


TIPS TO SHIFT YOUR CLASSROOM CULTURE

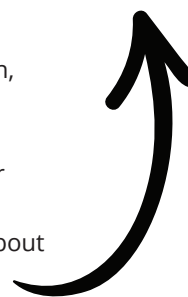
BY LINDSAY SCHROEDER

One of the greatest challenges in education is figuring out how to shake up the traditional learning model that has dominated classrooms for centuries.



A fundamental way to change this dynamic in your learning environment – and make room for other innovative approaches – is to transition from an educator-led approach to a learner-centered approach, eventually leading to learner-led.

You may be asking yourself, but how? An easy way to begin that transition is starting off each semester with a shared vision by collaborating with your students to design your classroom culture. Instead of taking the lead by sharing your expectations and classroom rules, engage learners in a conversation about the behaviors they'd like to see or a culture in which they can succeed. Think of it as a Venn diagram.



One way to start a discussion is by using your chalk/dry erase boards (or oversized easel paper) to:


TEACHER WANTS (RULES)	LEARNER WANTS (IDEALS)	SHARED EXPECTATIONS
<p>STEP 1</p> <p>List school and personal rules/policies for your classroom and/or behavior expectations <i>on the left</i>.</p>	<p>STEP 2</p> <p>Have students collectively discuss their expectations based on each rule/policy – or in general – <i>on the right</i>.</p>	<p>STEP 3</p> <p>Work TOGETHER to set a shared expectation for a classroom culture based on principles.</p>

One example may be that you expect students to come to class prepared. Students may suggest that expectation demonstrates them being responsible and seeking opportunities. Together, you decide to adopt the principles of responsibility and opportunity as part of your classroom norms.

This collaboration between you and your learners creates a true win-win classroom culture that benefits everyone. Starting this on day one empowers each student to begin taking ownership of their learning. This allows students to be curious, contribute to their learning set-up, and gives you the opportunity to start building relationships with each student by observing their talents in action. The goal in a learner-centered space is for you to serve as a guide to facilitate learning, through productive struggle and provide support after failures.


To shift your classroom culture from educator-led to student-centered, try these activities and discussion questions to chart a new course for you and your students.

WAYS TO SET CLASSROOM CULTURE	
	EDUCATOR-LED
<p>SHARED VISION FOR SUCCESS</p> <hr/> <p>MUTUAL ENGAGEMENT OWNERSHIP</p>	<p>Educator develops/shares syllabus, resources, lesson content, etc.</p>
	<p>Educator sets/shares classroom rules, dynamics, and norms.</p>
	<p>Educator lectures on set topic, gives assignments, tests knowledge, etc.</p>
	<p>Learners share ideas. Sample prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you hope to get out of this class? • What is important to you in this space? <hr/> <p>SUGGESTED EMPOWERED ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cowboy Inkblot/Find the Numbers (pg. 10) • S.M.A.R.T. Goals • Creating a Shared Classroom Vision <hr/> <p>Learners brainstorm principles of engagement for learning. Learners <i>and</i> educators adopt a shared expectation. Tools to use include Empowered Foundational Principles and Market Concepts.</p> <hr/> <p>SUGGESTED EMPOWERED ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom Vision: A Win-Win • Classroom Culture Venn-Diagram (at left) <hr/> <p>Educator guides learners through a “do first, talk later” experiential lesson that create individualized take-aways. Strategies to leverage include, but not limited to, collaborative debrief, written self-reflection, personal stories, contextual lecture, and examples.</p> <hr/> <p>SUGGESTED EMPOWERED ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socratic Seminars • Pit with Names Cards • Disruptus with Names • <i>YOUR LESSON</i> with PMM Overlay Tool



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To get started, scan this QR code or visit: TeachEmpowered.org/ClassroomCulture



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