

Quick Consolidation: Set Safe Classroom Norms

Creating an upbeat, emotionally positive class climate is no Pollyanna idea. The science is rock solid. This chapter reminds you to create and maintain norms in your classroom that foster a rich classroom climate that offers your students physical and emotional safety and a simple set of enforceable rules that encourage positive behavior, smart decision making, and dedicated effort. With this firmly in mind, answer the following reflection questions on how you can help make your classroom one that orchestrates the warm, uplifting climate that allows your students to flourish and bloom.

1. What do you know or understand about the importance of safe classroom norms to your students?
2. What physical safety concerns might your students have that are unique to your specific classroom environment? What new practices will you adopt in your classroom to ensure students understand a safety procedure?
3. Who are some students that show signs of feeling emotionally unsafe in your classroom? In the past, how have you responded to those signs, and how will you change your response to ensure they feel emotionally safe?
4. After reading and understanding the cool rules in this chapter, what changes will you make to your existing classroom rules to make them more effective?
5. What new and cool rules can you think of that you can use to replace existing rules that aren't effective?