

Mustang Prep Lesson Plans: Collaboration and Organization

Lesson Length: 55 minutes

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Materials needed: Post-it notes, pen/pencil, paper, post-it poster paper (or butcher paper), markers, printouts of simple line drawings or basic shapes.

Purpose: To show students the purpose of organization and collaboration in a secondary classroom. Also, to give students concrete ideas of how to use organization and collaboration to be more successful in a secondary classroom.

Agenda:

Begin with game: organize yourselves by who has the longest hair, longest to shortest. (without saying a word) try to beat the previous class time. 10 seconds added for: each person out of order and each time someone talks.

Talk about link between collaboration and organization. (How good organization can make for effective collaboration.)

Focus on organization:

Have common organizational issues written on papers around the room. Have students go around, giving them a minute at each station. Have them write/brainstorm possible solutions to these problems (two per station as they rotate). At the end, let students present using all ideas on what changes they practically would make based on the responses on their page.

1. Not being able to find backpack in the morning.
2. Losing homework.
3. Forgetting about homework.
4. Being tardy to class.
5. Not checking gradebook often enough.
6. Not getting makeup work when you are absent.
7. Procrastinating and not doing something until the night before.
8. Not having supplies in class.

Whichever station students end at, they will present. They can do this as a group or appoint one person to share. They will choose the top couple of solutions that they believe are the most effective and make the most sense.

Focus on collaboration:

As a group answer the following prompt: I hate group work because...

Students will put sticky notes with their answer all up at the front of the room. We will read them and discuss how to avoid typical group work pitfalls as well as the benefits of group work.

Back-to-Back Drawing

For: Communication Skills

What You'll Need: Paper, pens/markers, printouts of simple line drawings or basic shapes.

Instructions: Split your group into pairs and have each pair sit back to back. One person gets a picture of a shape or simple image, and the other gets a piece of paper and pen. The person holding the picture gives verbal instructions to their partner on how to draw the shape or image they've been given (without simply telling them what the shape or image is). After a set amount of time, have each set of partners compare their images and see which team drew the most accurate replica. The team with the most accurate drawing with get candy/a prize.

We will discuss the following question as a group to finish off the discussion:

So, how can organization and collaboration help us be successful in high school as well as college/career/life?

If there is time left over:

Human knot: Everyone stands near each other in the center of the room. Raise your right hand, reach across the group, and hold someone else's right hand. Raise your left hand, reach across the group, and hold a different person's left hand. Now everyone is connected in a knot. Unravel the knot into a circle of people.