**APS 9**

**Managing the Classroom**

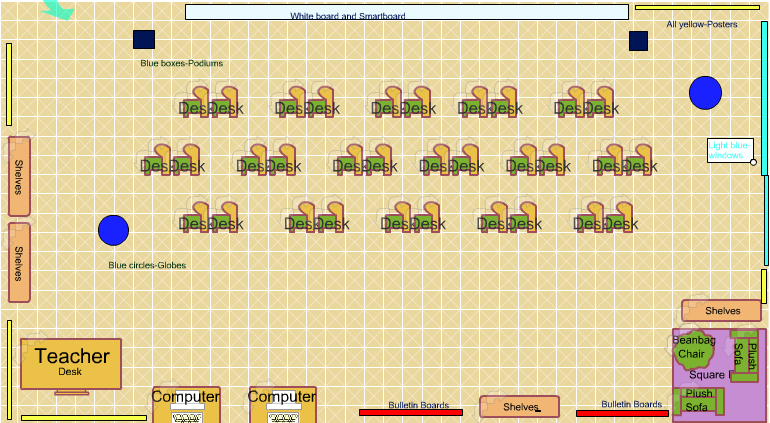
An effective teacher maximizes instructional time by efficiently managing student behavior, instructional routines and materials, and essential non instructional tasks*.*

* Managing the classroom is key for teachers to be able to have control. Managing can mean anything from discipline, activities, lessons, routines, and more. It is important for teachers to be able to control their students as well as the environment that they learn in. Ayers emphasizes how important it is to create a space that students can be comfortable in and how it can shape their behaviors.

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Ultimate Design Classroom



After reviewing the details of this project I was pretty excited to start, although it builds my hopes up for this perfect classroom I have in mind which I know is just not realistic! But regardless, I had fun planning out my ideal classroom. As technology is becoming a major part of the classroom, I would like my future and ideal classroom to grow with it but not to lose the quintessential old school feel. When you walk into my classroom, I want people to feel intrigued and fascinated. As a history teacher, I would like to decorate my walls with posters of historical places and events. My current mentor teacher, Julie Lumpkin’s classroom walls are covered with posters of foreign places and they are so interesting and make the room so much more exciting to be in. I want these visuals to provide new knowledge to my students almost as if they are a part of a museum. I want to also have a pop of color everywhere to show that my way of teaching, especially history, can still be fun and energetic. My seats are paired because it is a mix of behaviorist and constructivist. The students have enough to interact and collaborate but also can be separated and I would still be in control. I did not put the desks in rows one behind another, I staggered them, that way I can see all of my students and they can all see me.

On the back walls I want a few computers that the students can use during group activities or perhaps for free time activities. I also want two large bulletin boards that take up half of the wall. On one bulletin board, I want to display the class and school rules, student’s work, quotes from famous historical figures and pictures. I think that the rules on the board will be constant reminders for the students to behave as they see them every day. I think that displaying the student’s work is also super important as Kronowitz and Ayers emphasize its importance to the student’s self-esteem and willingness to participate. The famous quotes I believe can serve as inspirational for students and for them to know where some great ideas that came from people in our history.

On the other bulletin board, I would have folders stapled, each different colors that would contain history related worksheets and activities for the students to do in their free time, for example after a test. In between the two bulletin boards I would have one shelf that would have baskets on it, each would be designated for certain papers, homework, tests and projects and one would be for me to hand back students their work. The paper baskets would give the class organization so the students would know when and where to hand in their assignments and I could get their work back in an organized way.

On one wall I would like to have a few shelves that include historical books and one would include their books for the class. Instead of textbooks, I would like the students to have a “smart book” or something like a kindle. I think that they would be a good idea because they are cheaper than constantly updating textbook versions and it would be keeping up with technological change but also restricts access to the internet. Unlike the iPads which are used for multi-purposes, including the internet and games, the kindle/”smart book” would enhance reading without the distraction of the internet. I do not want to eliminate books altogether, the other shelves around the room will include a plethora of historical biographies, novels, etc. Textbook history can be so cut and dry sometimes so I think that historical novels and memoirs could bring history to a more interesting level for my students. Technology is growing, but books and reading are still so essential to learning.

I have a few computers in my room for students to use for group projects and also in their free time after tests. If there are in school projects, I want the students to have access to as many resources as they can so I would have books, their smart books and computers. In addition to these resources, I had come up with the idea to have virtual or like Google map globes in my room. I am not sure if they are real (yet) but I pictures them being in the shape of a globe but touch screen, voice activated and it gives you the Google map image of the place. This way, students can see the real landscape, architecture and other physical features of the place we are looking at. I think this tool would be engaging for students to use and it is better than a regular globe which does not give many dimensions to the place, just the location.

What I had originally planned to have in my classroom but had forgotten about until my classmate Adam included the same idea in his classroom. The idea was to have a costume box full of props and costumes the students could use to present or reenact an historical event we talk about in class. I think this would be a fun way to get students to participate and have a good time while learning the material.

I wanted to have two podiums in the front of the classroom, but not for me. I wanted the podiums for my class to have debates and discussions about current events and politics. I think that it is important as a history teacher to include current events and politics into my lessons. Each podium would be designated for a certain side of an argument or debate. In doing this, I think it would simulate a real debate and allow students to participate and have a voice in the classroom, which I find to be very important in building a student’s character and opinion in the class.

My classroom is pretty simply but I think it is also very functional and includes just enough for the students to excel and engage in the material. I like that I was able to incorporate enough technology into the classroom but still keep it a bit old school which is important. I had a fun time creating the classroom and hopefully one day it can come true! I really hope that my Google map globe can also be invented one day!

* Rationale:

I chose the Ultimate Classroom Design because not only does it relate to ADEPT Standard 8, it also goes with ADEPT Standard 9 for it refers to the classroom and the students. The Ultimate Classroom Design provides my opinion of how I would like my classroom to be set up and how that would provide structure AND a fun learning environment for my students AND me. I think that this project definitely helped me to better grasp how important a classroom setting is to discipline and learning.