

Classroom Environment and Technology

Routines: UDL-PLC Series

LEARN

How do your classroom routines and the setup of your physical space in the classroom impact UDL? Very little time in professional development is given to how we use the space in our classrooms. Often, when teachers try to increase differentiation strategies, they run up against barriers of space. It takes too long to arrange students into groups if it requires a total rework of the classroom space. The same thing is true about integrating technology. Without some routines established that students are familiar with, it takes too long to get kids using computers within a class period. In this module, you will read some and reflect on flexible classroom design.

Choose two of the links to articles on flexible classroom design, and watch the short video of Mr. Crowley talking about establishing classroom routines.

1. Flexible Classroom Providing Learning Environments Kids Need
<http://www.edutopia.org/practice/flexible-classrooms-providing-learning-environment-kids-need>
2. Design Thinking and the Deskless Classroom
<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/design-thinking-and-deskless-classroom-tracy-evans>
3. Flexible Seating and Student-Centered Classroom Redesign
<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/flexible-seating-student-centered-classroom-kayla-delzer>
4. ALL IN on Flexible Seating and Why You Should Be Too: A Principal's Perspective
<http://legacyelementary.blogspot.com/2016/02/all-in-on-flexible-seating-and-why-you.html>
5. Tanya Leon, from Richards Middle School in Fraser MI, talks about flexible design in her 7th grade English class. Begin at timestamp 37:18
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTNeMoNbnf0&feature=youtu.be>
6. The video features Craig Crowley, a middle school reading teacher. He talks about how he set up some routines to make the use of technology more effective in his classroom.
7. <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/hiat/udl/examples/examp008.shtm>

DISCUSS

Reflection and Discussion on Classroom Space and Routines:

1. Take a photo of some aspect of your classroom that illustrates how the physical space supports UDL. Post your photo and your reflection on the following:

- How does matching classroom space to instruction complement the UDL concept of providing students with choices?

2. Also reflect on one of the following:

- How does the physical environment of a classroom complicate or support UDL? Provide examples.
- How do your classroom routines support UDL? Provide examples.

Responses to Colleagues:

Respond to at least one other colleague. In your responses to colleagues, build on their answer to take the discussion deeper.

- How does your colleague's comments and photograph influence your own opinions about the use of physical space in your classroom?
- How does viewing the variety of reflections and photographs help you understand the relationship between the physical setup of your classroom and the teaching?