



Designing the Learning Alliance



VISIBILITY



RHYTHM



EMPOWER



COLLABORATE

Acknowledgements

- The rating sheet is inspired by www.idearatingsheets.org
- Icons are provided by flaticon.com
- Visit AgileClassrooms.com to download more resources so you can create a learning environment built for the 21st Century.

The Learning Alliance



Overview

Overview

In an Agile Classroom, the teacher and student grant power to the learning relationship. There is not a release of power, but a joining together so that the relationship grows in power. Designing a Learning Alliance is a visible agreement between students and teachers of how they empower one another in their learning. It sets a climate of empowerment, collaboration, and achievement. It says the classroom as a whole are responsible for each others success. That student voice and choice is taken seriously. That the teacher and students are partners in the learning journey.



When

This is done at the beginning of the year, the first 1-2 weeks of school. It is updated at anytime, most often during the Reflection part of the Learning Rhythm.

Parts

The Learning Alliance has four main components.

1. **Vision** - by the end of the class, how will learners and the classroom be transformed?
2. **Values** - identify shared values and design commitments in living out these values.
3. **Roadmap** - share the big picture learning objectives/goals for the class.
4. **Routines** - establish clarity on the routines of how the classroom, learning, and decision making happens.

The Learning Alliance is most powerful when all parts are integrated. We have created a separate guide for each part since you may decide to implement some parts and not others.



Activity 1: Values Discovery

Activity 2: Commitment Statements

Values Discovery



Overview

The process steps the classroom through establishing a core set of values. By evoking values, we can gain deeper commitment and shape a classroom culture authentic to you and your students.

Materials

- Pens/markers
- Essential Question Sheets
- Value Rating Sheets

Prep

- Print out the Value Rating Sheets and the Essential Question Sheet Post them around the classroom.
- Space them out to allow students to walk around
- **Note, you can remove some of the values or create additional ones.*

Activity

1. Introduce the *Essential Question*. You might have a class discussion around what values are and why they are important.
2. Explain the purpose of the activity. For example, to shape a classroom culture that reflects who they are.
3. Explain how to use the Value Rating sheets (1) *Each student fills in one circle on each value sheet (2) Sign it to show their commitment (3) Write down thoughts about the value based on their own insights and discussions.*
4. Ask students to form pairs or triads and take a pen, pencil, or marker with them & visit a value rating sheet posted on the walls. *They should distribute evenly so one value is not being "overcrowded".*
5. Students discuss with their partner what that value means to them. They can capture their summary on the sheet where it says "*Thoughts*".
6. Each student rates how important the value is in their life and learning.
7. After they have voted, they can move to the next value and repeat. **You can have them do this on their own or set a timer for them to rotate.*
8. Analyze the results. Choose the top 3 or 5 values that are most motivating to the students as the core values. Share it with the group.
9. You may want to have a debrief conversation with the classroom around their values. Does it reflect who they are? Does anyone strongly disagree with the results?



**What values
are most
important
to us?**






Our Values

CREATIVITY

to have and engage in new and original ideas

Signatures

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Thoughts:

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Class: _____

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Our Values






DEPENDABILITY *to be reliable and trustworthy*

Signatures

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Class:

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Our Values






FUN

to work and learn with a sense of play

Signatures

Do you agree?

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Our Values

GROWTH

to keep changing and growing

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Our Values

HONESTY *to express ourselves honestly and truthfully*

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Our Values

HOPE






to maintain a positive and optimistic outlook

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Our Values

HUMILITY

to be modest and unassuming

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Class: _____

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Our Values

FAIRNESS

to promote fair and equal treatment for all

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Our Values

LEARNING

to learn and contribute valuable knowledge

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Class: _____

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Our Values

MASTERY






to be pursue excellence in my learning and life

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Class:



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Our Values

OPENNESS

to be open to new experiences, ideas, and options

Do you agree?

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Class:

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Our Values

ORDER

to have an environment and life that is organized

Do you agree?

Fill your one dot below & sign on the right:

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Thoughts:

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Signatures

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Class: _____

Date: _____

Our Values

PURPOSE

to have meaning and direction in my life

Do you agree?

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Class: _____

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Our Values

RESPECT

to show honor and esteem for one another

Signatures

Do you agree?

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