

My Classroom Management Philosophy

My classroom management philosophy is centered around safety. I'm a firm believer in the idea that students can't learn if they don't feel safe. This is especially important in an English classroom, because the things I'll be teaching are inherently subjective and personal. The safer they feel, the more open they'll be to learn and to express their thoughts to me and to each other.

This safety, for me, will come from cultivating an atmosphere of kindness and an appreciation for making mistakes. My guidelines for my class will be centered around kindness and respect for space and each other, which correlates well with the Love and Logic idea of letting students have some freedom, unless – of course – they are disrespecting someone else in some way. I like all of the strategies that teachers can use to gently pull students' attention back without yelling, too. I can't expect my students to respect me or their classmates if I'm not modeling that for them first.

The openness and appreciation of mistakes fits right in with this. I think that making mistakes and correcting them gently is one of the very best ways to learn and to retain something, so it's extremely important for me to cultivate an atmosphere in which my students know that I, along with their classmates, will be kind and appreciative of a student when he or she makes a mistake. It's important for students to take risks, even if they may turn out to be wrong. They will only do this, though, if they feel safe in my classroom.