

Strategies for creating a student-centered classroom

Questions to consider:

1. How will students be provided the opportunity to take ownership of their own learning?

Example: In a critique –

- Students are given time to write down what they need feedback on before the critique begins (5 min.)
- Students facilitate the critique, sharing what they need feedback on
- Participants provide feedback using the phrasing “I have an idea about this _____ (particular aspect of the work), would you like to hear it?”

This provides ownership of the critique to the students.

2. How will students be given time to make meaning during the lesson?

Example: In a class focused on a lecture or reading – Guided reflection + Partner Discussion

- Write concepts, themes, or questions on cards and have students pick one at random. Give students several minutes to write what they think and know about this concept, term, or question.
- Ask students to turn to a partner and share their thinking. The pair are asked to determine, describe and explain the connection between the terms or concepts, or share their answers to their questions.
- These ideas are discussed as a whole group.

This gives space in the lesson for students thinking to expand and to clarify confusion.

3) How might students work together during the lesson in pairs or small groups?

Example: Any class

- Give students a chance to turn and talk to answer a question or share ideas about a concept or theme
- Ask students to work together to solve a problem or create a graphic
- Provide students with criteria (or a rubric) for a writing piece and ask them to peer edit individually, then share their comments
- Ask students to share work and compare their ideas to share with the class

4) Are there opportunities for students to move around the classroom?

Examples:

- Reconfigure their seating – Move their chairs from whole class into smaller groups, or move to a corner of the classroom (if a large studio)
- Examine student work gallery style
- Collect ideas on post-its and stick them to a board for the class to examine as a whole to draw patterns and conclusions

