Creating Class Norms

Free Write Homework due on second day of class

A “free write” is when you “freely” write in response to a prompt in order to brainstorm ideas. Do not worry about spelling, grammar or punctuation. You will turn this in and get credit for doing it, but spelling, grammar and punctuation will not be judged. Try to write non-stop until you are finished. Feel free to put whatever comes to mind on paper.

**Please free write in response to the following two prompts.**

1) Think about times—out of school as well as in school—when you learned something new. Make some notes about what helped you feel comfortable about learning in that situation. Focus on **what made the learning happen** rather than the content you learned.

2) Think about times—out of school as well as in school—when you had difficulty learning something new. Make some notes about what in your environment may have caused this difficulty. Focus on **what got in the way of learning** rather than the content you learned.

**In class work:**

Have students pair share their free writes.

**Whole class discussion:** Students share similarities and differences in a whole class discussion

**In small groups:**

4-5 minutes:

Brainstorm norms for the group that will help define how we discuss, think, and interact

**Prompt:**

How can we create and maintain a comfortable, productive classroom?

In light of what makes learning comfortable, what guidelines should our class follow that will help define how we discuss, think and interact in class?

* Students should/shouldn’t
* Teacher should/shouldn’t

Whole group shares and we create the classroom norms list together. I bring out the norms at the beginning of each class and we discuss it and add to it as needed.