

THE FIRST TWO TO FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS

KEY IDEAS:

- Learning time begins upon arrival at school or a specific classroom. The first few minutes set the tone for the culture and academic expectations.
- Learners should be met at the door in a positive manner with encouraging words. A caring respectful environment inspires risk-taking and a vision of success.
- All learners benefit from clear expectations and a consistent standard of desired behaviors offering challenge and support.
- As learners enter, they should feel valued and that their time is being well-spent building skills and understanding which promotes success and a higher sense of self-worth.
- Choice is a powerful motivational strategy. Since routines can often become stale and rote, allowing change and modification will keep them crisp and productive.
- Choice can often engage learners who prefer to work behind the scenes. Offering supportive roles of responsibility will increase interpersonal and communication skills and not be stressful for reluctant learners.

Elements that may be included in the first 2-5 minutes of class:

1. **Enter and Move** - to designated area within the classroom to have a 'chat' on assigned Topic. Use for introduction of new material or review.
2. **Securing supplies** - materials needed for class, put away coats, etc.
3. **Beginning class assignment options**- 1) responding to a question, 2) journaling, 3) reviewing for a quiz, 4) reviewing materials that will be used in group discussion, 5) preparing for an activity, etc.
4. **Class Recitation** - pledges, class creed, daily or weekly quote, poem, mission statement, etc.
5. **Roll Call** - taken by leader, learner assistant, or team of assistants who share responsibilities.
6. **Dedications** - Written or orally, present a dedication to honor something another person has done.
7. **Person of the Day** - present a brief bio or recognition of someone in the group. It is imperative this process is sincere, fair, and well-received by the group. It should not be Cause for embarrassment. Beforehand, ask the recipient if they are comfortable with verbal recognition. If not, choose a written or more private type of recognition.
8. **Goal Setting** – Write a one sentence goal for the day. This can be shared later during class time as a brain break activity and/or reviewed at the end of class.
9. **Collection of Homework or projects** - Have assistants collect work or designate an area for individuals to drop off work.
10. **Homework assistance** - Have a designated area for learners to receive assistance on work that is unfinished or being revised.