

# 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.
  - Review previously set goal/s and revise as needed.
  - Check with accountability partner
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.