

Considerations for Environment

Social and Cultural Environment

- What are the guidelines for how students treat each other in class?
- What can you and your students collectively do so everyone feels safe to share their ideas?
- In what ways can you encourage your students to stretch their thinking and take intellectual risks?

Instructional Environment

- What kinds of math tasks are a good fit for providing opportunities for your students to meet the success criteria?
- To what extent and in what ways are students encouraged to share their thinking publically?
- What's the right amount of scaffolding to provide students during a task?
- How much of the intellectual work in class are your students doing?

Physical Environment

- How can you arrange the setup of your classroom to support using formative assessment?
- How can you best make available the various tools and resources your students need to become more proactive participants in the learning process?

Recommendations for Establishing a Classroom Environment

1. Be explicit about what it means to share your thinking and about why it's important.
2. Set a clear expectation that everyone needs to participate and contribute, and provide a variety of opportunities for students to contribute.
3. Inquire about your students' thinking both when they're correct as well as when they're incorrect.
4. Be explicit about the purpose of collaborating.
5. Strive to keep the intellectual work in the hands of your students.
6. Arrange your classroom to allow students easy access to resources, including learning materials, evidence-gathering materials, self-assessment materials, and their peers.