

EDUC 207 – In-Class Activity – Creating a Brain Friendly Classroom

With one or two peers, I want you to create a brain-friendly classroom. You need to identify the age group and if necessary, content (only if fine arts or physical education). Each person on your 'team' must contribute in writing or drawing.

Think about the following as you create this classroom. **The physical element must be drawn; you may decide how to represent the other elements. You must include all elements under the physical classroom** and can use the other information to guide you as you think about a comprehensive classroom description.

1. The physical classroom – **This must be drawn!** What does it look like, smell like, what types of 'things' do you have in the room? What kind of lighting? Where do students sit? Do they use tables, desks, beanbag chairs? What colors are the walls? How is the room itself arranged? What type of technology will you have for students?
2. The emotional classroom – How do students treat each other? How do you treat them? What makes the classroom fear-free? What makes the emotional environment friendly? How will you meet the needs of students' changing environments to create a safe classroom? What type of music will you use?
3. Lesson elements – How will you start your lessons? What elements will you include to be brain friendly? How will you use novelty, humor, movement, and other brain friendly strategies in your lessons? What are some actual activities that students are engaged in – both academically and socially? Are the students ever working together in groups? How will you make the material meaningful and interesting?
4. Feedback – How will you give students feedback? What type of feedback will you give?
5. Other – Include any other elements you think important!