

The culture in each classroom is subjective to the people who make up the class, like the students and the instructors. I've been in high school and college classrooms where it was all business, and it was always quiet and just work. Typically I always dreaded these classes and often got bored. Then some classrooms are just chaotic, no one is paying attention to the instructor or teacher and everyone is just doing what they want. These classes can sometimes be fun because you can talk, but no work ever gets done and it's a waste of the teacher's time. Then there's our classroom, which I find has a perfect mix of focus and freedom to talk. In our classroom, we can talk and have great conversations, but also there's time we all focus and learn. This culture of our classroom is due to many variables, students, instructors, etc.

The first one of these variables I would like to hit on is "Stories". In our classroom, our instructors tell us a lot of stories about the other class (IT Onyx). Due to this, our classroom culture develops more and more maturely because we can use these stories to learn from and know what to do and what not to do. As well as stories told by Elizabeth of people she knows who are extremely successful, which in turn also helps our class culture develop further.

The second idea or variable in our classroom culture is "Physical setting (Physical environment)" which I find very interesting. Typically our class is in EIT 217, but when we go to classroom 218 the culture of the whole class changes just a little. We're all sitting close, looking face to face, and talking which makes the classroom culture even more lively and friendly. Matter of fact I was talking to someone in our class and we both agreed that classroom 218 makes the class much more interesting and fun compared to the other classroom. The whole classroom culture shifts just a little.

Now the third variable is "Humor and play". When it was a couple weeks of class we did a 2-minute presentation of random and funny topics. This little game helped by creating a more

fun and open class culture. The little moment of everyone stressed for 2 minutes before and then just yapping about whatever made everyone in the class feel more relaxed/ comfortable with each other which helped a lot. Another moment of “Humor and play” typically happens more with Elizabeth. She’s very funny and playful which again, causes the class to be more playful and fun with each other and further develops the classroom culture.

Next is language, the language in our classroom varies, but typically we speak in a very calm and friendly way. Of course, though we do still have very professional conversations now and then. This laid-back and very friendly language is cultivated mostly by the instructors. Specifically Elizabeth, the way she communicates with us is very open and friendly which makes us the students like her more because she’s real. Of course, Thomas and Bruce speak very friendly and openly, but not the way Elizabeth does.

The final variable is the rules, the classroom rules, which aren’t many, to be honest. We do have the university's rules to follow but there are no crazy or strict classroom rules that are asinine. I’ve been in plenty of classrooms where the instructors were dictators and we had to do what they said no ifs, ands, or buts. Because of these relaxed rules, I think it creates a more effective place to learn. Our instructor understands us the students which is comforting and encouraging as a student. In turn, this causes us the students to pay more attention and learn freely.

In conclusion, I think our class culture is perfect for a learning environment. With all these variables, stories, rules, language, environment, and humor our classroom functions extremely well. This wouldn’t be possible without great instructors who influence this micro-culture. And I can’t wait to see how our culture will develop for the next couple of semesters.