

Module 8: Class Cohesion

OBSERVE

Module 8: Class Cohesion

Log into your online account and watch the following units:

8.2 – Class Cohesion

8.3 – “Me” to “We”

8.4 – Engaging the Group

8.5 – Community

REFLECT

Individuals have a desire to be part of a group or team, to be a part of something greater than themselves, even in the school setting. We must understand that team cohesion is a combination of first- and second-dimension strategies. Dr. Carron defines team cohesion as a dynamic process reflected in the tendency of a group to come together in the pursuit of its goal.

1. Describe the most unified group or team you have ever been a part of. As a member of that team, what were your primary motives for putting forth your best effort?

2. What made that group or team unified?

By combining the first scope (students) and the second scope (task and relational), the matrix or formula for team cohesion is created. These components are:

Individual – Task

Group – Task

Individual – Relational

Group – Relational

3. Briefly describe what you typically do in building your daily lesson plans to teach Individual – Task and Group – Task?

DISCUSS

We need to have strategies to connect individually with our students and to allow them to connect individually with each other. Developing an action plan that lets the class enjoy each other's company on a deeper level in a group setting can help accomplish this.

1. What are some strategies you have used in the past to get your students together outside of the normal academic environment?

2. What are some strategies that you can incorporate into your action and lesson plans to help students connect?

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3. Can you think of an organization with whom you can partner to provide such opportunities and serve others?

As a teacher, you have incredible influence on your students. If you want to unify your class, it is important that unity is established and modeled in your leadership. The longitudinal Harvard Study of Adult Development is showing that good relationships keep us happier and healthier while loneliness and isolation leads to shorter life, have more health issues, and brain functioning declines sooner.

The Hardwired to Connect report proposes that young people have three basic needs that must be met to grow into flourishing adults: an authority figure to believe in and love them, a belief system that gives them purpose and meaning in life, and a place to belong. Many of our kids aren't getting these things at home, as a teacher you can provide all three of these needs.

4. What are some things you are doing to promote positive relationships and providing the three needs proposed by Hardwired to Connect?
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