

Morning Meeting
Grade 2
20 minutes

Morning Meetings are an instructional activity that would be categorized in the Personal Instructional Family. While this activity allows for students' personal exploration of themselves, I would also categorize this in the Social Instructional Family, because the students learn proper techniques for interacting with their peers. This activity allows for students to start their day in a positive manner, have ownership in the classroom experience, and share thoughts with peers. To be effective, Morning Meetings are to be done daily in the classroom. They can be done at all grade levels, with the structure changing slightly, but the content increasing with the developmental needs of the students.

The activity below is a sample of a Morning Meeting that occurs daily in my classroom. The students are second grade students in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Since the implementation of Morning Meetings in November, I have seen a dramatic change in their interaction with each other, understanding of themselves, and understanding of the environment around them.

Objective:

- Students will be able to express their thoughts clearly through verbal expression.
- Students will be able to listen and respond to peers' comments.
- Students will be able to cooperate with peers when sharing ideas and participating in activities.
- Students will be able to communicate appropriate rules and procedures in the classroom.

Materials:

- "Talk Ball" – students pass around "Talk Ball" when a student is speaking. This allows students to direct their eye contact towards to speaker and reminds students that whoever is holding the "Talk Ball" is the only person speaking.
- "Morning Meeting Greeting Cards" – the leader selects the Morning Meeting Greeting of their choice from the stack of greeting cards.
- "Morning Meeting Activity Cards" – the leader selects the Morning Meeting Activity of their choice from the stack of activity cards.
- Classroom Culture of Dignity (Classroom Rules) Poster – students will use this to review the classroom rules and expectations.
- Question Jar – questions on Popsicle sticks that are used to create classroom discussion.
- Student Name Sticks

Warm Up:

1. *Morning Meeting Greeting*: The preselected student leader of the week uses the Morning Meeting Cards to choose a Morning Meeting Greeting. The student announces greeting and gives a quick explanation of how it is done. The students then complete the greeting.

Examples of greetings:

- *One Minute Greeting* – students have one minute to greet as many students as they can. When the timer starts the students walk around and shake each other's hands and say "Good Morning!"
 - *Clap, Clap, Chant, Chant* – the leader determines a rhythm that the students will clap to and starts a chant to say good morning to each individual person – the person responds to the greeting in a similar chant.
 - *Circle Greeting* – students sit in a circle and the leader determines how they will say good morning to one another. This greeting travels around the circle until everyone has been greeted.
2. *Culture of Dignity*: Students will then review the Classroom Culture of Dignity.

Activity:

1. *Share*: Three students sign up for the share. During the share, the students take turn sharing something about themselves. They can then select up to three other students to ask them questions or comment on their share.
2. *Question Jar*: The leader selects a question from the question jar and reads it out loud to the students. The students are given a few seconds to think about their answer, they pair with a partner, and share their answers. If there is time, partners can share what their partner has told them.
3. *Morning Meeting Activity*: The leader selects a Morning Meeting Activity from the cards and reads it out loud to the students. The students then complete the activity.
 - a. The Morning Meeting Activity take longer than the time allows. If this is the case, or the activity is not completed, or there is little time for this activity, the students will complete this activity during the Afternoon Wrap Up.

Activity Summary:

1. *Today's Goals*: Students are to reflect on one good thing they did the previous day and one thing they can do better today. Students can either share with a partner or a few will be selected to share out to the group.
2. *Chant*: Students end with Classroom Chant. All students stand in a circle, hold hands, and say the classroom chant.

Assessment:

During the Morning Meeting, I am monitoring all students to ensure they are using proper social skills and cooperating with all students. We have implemented our Classroom Culture of Dignity, so students know how they are supposed to be treated and how they are to treat others in the classroom. Since the

implementation of Morning Meetings in November, the classroom culture has changed dramatically. This activity needs to be done daily for a positive overall effect.