

Eliminating the Fear Factor:
From “Us vs. Them” to
“A Classroom of One”



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Introduction



There is a preponderance of research supporting the correlation between school climate and student achievement. Very little in the way of student success can be achieved when most of the day is spent writing referrals, engaging with an unruly student, breaking up a fight, confiscating cell phones or calling for the removal of a belligerent learner.

Who is this for?



- ❧ Teachers at all levels
- ❧ Principals and Assistant Principals
- ❧ School Counselors and Psychologists
- ❧ Health and human service counselors and personnel
- ❧ Criminal justice professionals
- ❧ Community leaders
- ❧ Volunteer service providers
- ❧ Social workers
- ❧ School Resource Officers (Sherriff's deputies)

Session Overview



Participants will:

- ❧ Examine a number of effective techniques to address issues that arise in the classroom.
- ❧ Discuss the emotional toll such behaviors take on the educator
- ❧ Engage in role-play for Active Classroom Management Behavior
- ❧ Explore proactive strategies that ensure classroom-climate control, lesson plan execution and limited disruptions.

Learning and Success



- ❧ The very identifiers used to label youth as at risk speak to both internal as well as external hindrances to learning and success. An educator can most effectively control the climate *within* his or her classroom walls.

Learning and Success, cont'd.

When one's profession evolves to include fear for safety or the unknown ("What will set Johnny off today?") it becomes very difficult to impart knowledge and facilitate learning.



Behavior Modification



School Climate is one of the primary dictators of student success. Every staff member the student encounters influences the school's pulse, atmosphere and outcomes.

Behavior Modification, cont'd.

There has been a nationwide increase in the incidents of student-student and teacher-student altercations, referrals, suspensions, even arrests as a result of students' extreme behavioral responses to teacher discipline. Classroom instruction and student achievement suffer.

Behavior Modification Gone Awry

Reporter		Teacher	
Location			
<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Hallway	<input type="checkbox"/> Cafeteria	<input type="checkbox"/> Library
<input type="checkbox"/> Bathroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrival/Dismissal	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Behavior Category			
<input type="checkbox"/> Disruption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Defiance	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical Contact / Fighting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate/Abusive Language
<input type="checkbox"/> Tardy	<input type="checkbox"/> Property Misuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Dress Code	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Device Violation
<input type="checkbox"/> Harassment/Bullying	<input type="checkbox"/> Aggression	<input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate Display of Affection	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Skipping Class	<input type="checkbox"/> Lying/Cheating		
Others Involved in Incident			
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/> Other School Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-school Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		
Description of Incident			
<p>used the "F" word in the hall multiple times. When I said to him should not hear that word he told to plug my ears I walked away.</p>			
Administrative Decision			
<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Privilege	<input type="checkbox"/> Time in Office	<input type="checkbox"/> Conference with Student	
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent Contact	<input type="checkbox"/> Individualized Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Out of School Suspension	
<input type="checkbox"/> After School Detention 20 / 60 / 90 min	<input type="checkbox"/> In-School Suspension		

Behavior Modification Gone Awry

☞ Student Behavior:

1. Talking
 2. Getting out of seat
 3. Using cell phone
 4. Cheating
 5. Threats
 6. Fighting
- Other

☞ Teacher Response:

1. Redirect student
 2. Re-seat student
 3. Confiscate phone
 4. Retrieve test
 5. Referral and/or SRO
 6. Suspension
- Other

Barriers to Climate Control

- ☞ Ideally, every school's leadership offers support for the teacher and no teacher becomes disengaged (or worse, disenchanting). The reality is, external factors such as problems at home, behavioral issues, and even hunger impact the school climate.



When Fear Manifests



🔗 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4INw7roFoho>



The Climate-Equals-Success Correlation



- ❧ The past fifty years of research on school climate and student achievement sends a resounding message that leadership and teachers play an invaluable role in ensuring students are successful. For the student, it provides what MacNeil et al. (2009) describe as an avenue to greater student achievement.
- ❧ Halpin and Croft's 1962 study is cited in Dahlquist et al.'s (2006) research of school climate and is one of the first to underpin teacher commitment and engagement as critical factors in establishing a climate conducive to student achievement.



Nuts and Bolts: Mending the Disconnect



- ❧ Effective Use of Classroom Space
- ❧ Using Change as a Weapon
- ❧ The Power of Body Language
- ❧ The Message of Mobility

You can...



- ❧ Reclaim your classroom
- ❧ Keep teaching and learning at the center
- ❧ Garner buy-in from your students
- ❧ Restore a sense of Work-Life Balance for yourself

Q and A



☞ Thank you for attending.

Any questions?

☞ Contact Dr. Yvette

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About Dr. Yvette



Dr. Yvette is a public speaker, award-winning educator and owner of Yvette & Company Consulting. She has traveled nationally and internationally promoting invasive leadership that positively impacts all members of a working community. Dr. Yvette was responsible for leading a team in establishing a multicultural program that successfully realigned a cohort of students with significant academic deficits, thereby placing them on track for graduation. The program garnered the Association of Florida College's Best Practice award. Her program, Girlspeak, won Youth Volunteer of the Year from United Way. She is author of several books, including *From Cradle to College: A Parent's Guide to Ensuring a Strong Finish*.

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