



MVP SPACES

A Holistic Learning Environment ———

**A guide for using
8 **Visual** S.T.A.P.L.E.s
in the classroom.**

Simple Techniques to Achieve a Positive Learning Environment

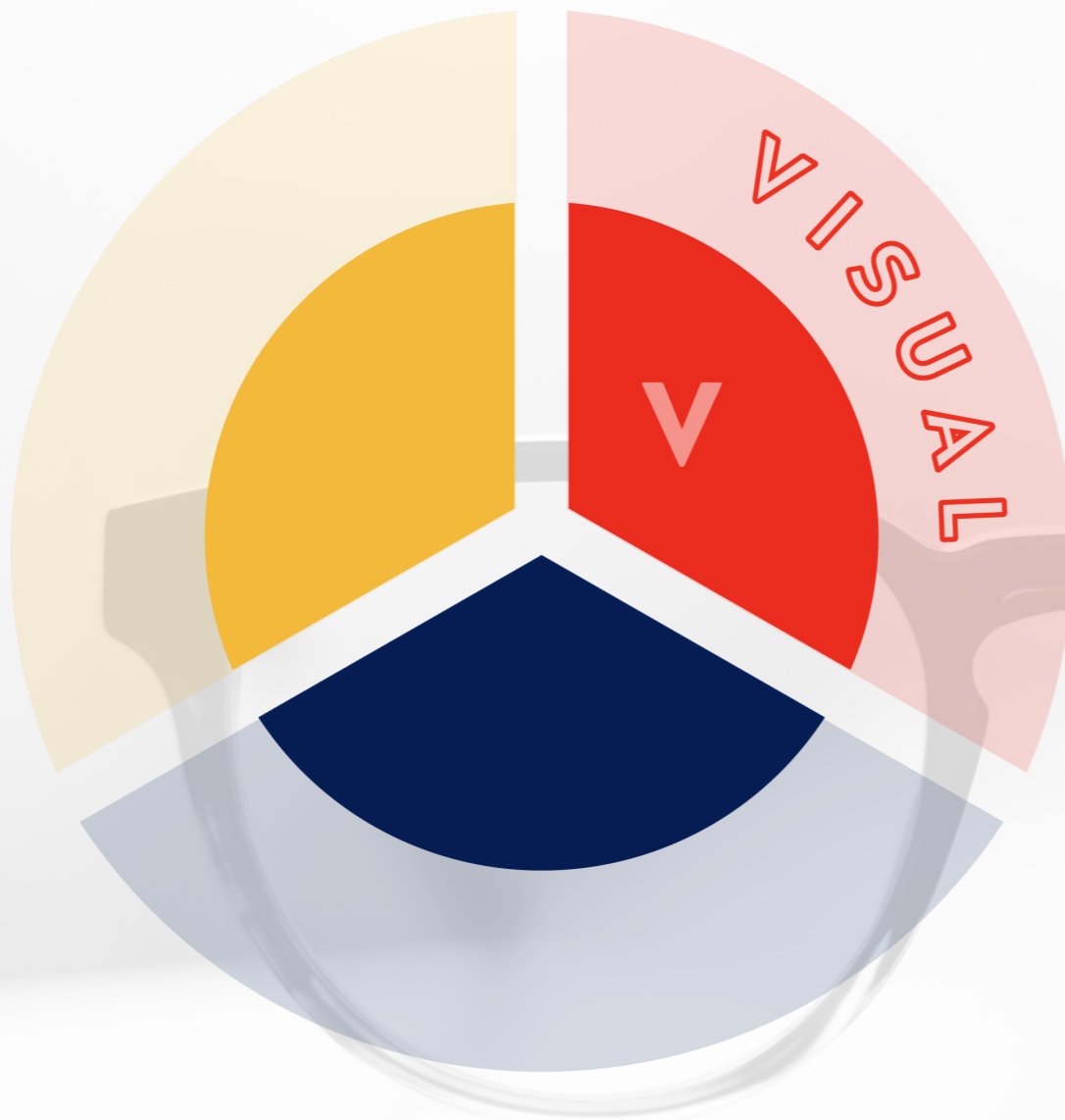
Visual SPACE

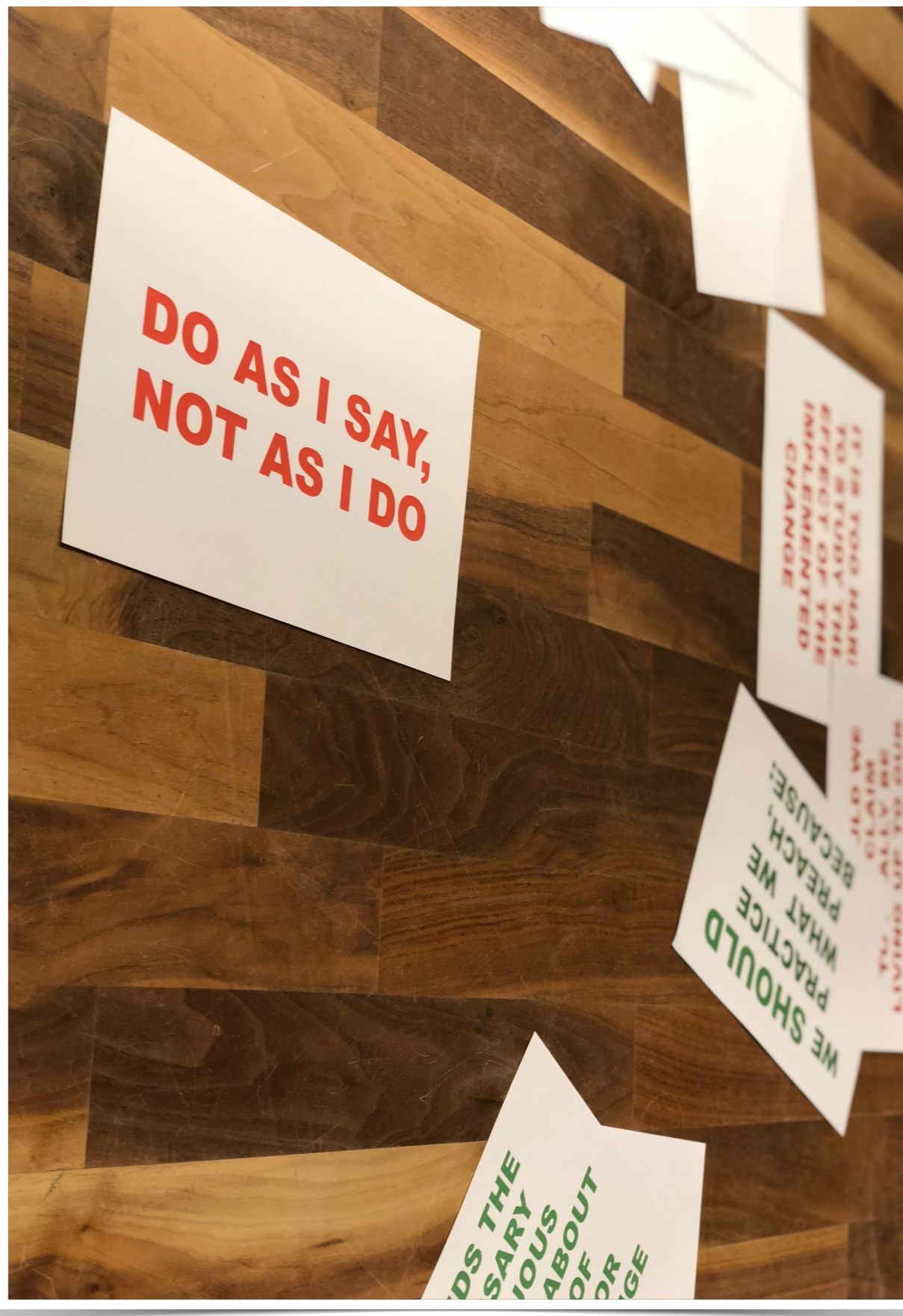
Aspects of a space that are balanced with examples, exposures and experiences to support learning.

Visual S.T.A.P.L.E.s

1. Model Expectations
2. Post a Variety of Student Work
3. Provide Low Light
4. Display High Quality Exemplars
5. Use Media to Enhance Learning
6. Display Different Cultural Perspectives
7. Use Natural Light
8. Display Universal Vocabulary

Research Resource Page can be found [HERE](#)



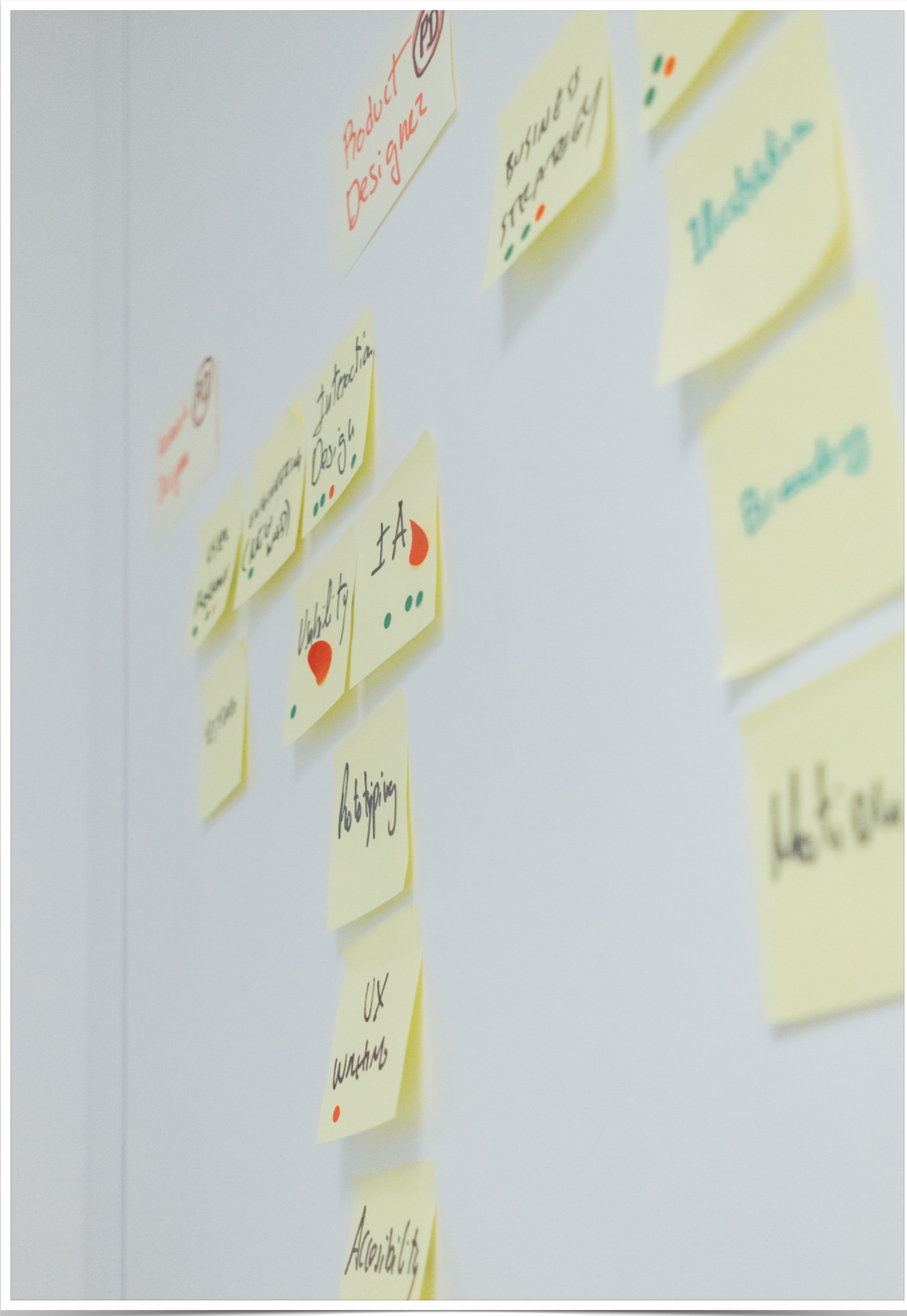


S.T.A.P.L.E. #1

Model Expectations

Modeling expectations can give students practice in developing the actions you set in the learning environment. To increase the opportunity for follow-through, students need to see and hear what is expected. Teachers need to communicate, be consistent, and connect with students when modeling expectations. Three tips for modeling include:

1. Clear Expectations - Communication of expectations must be clear for both students and the teacher.
2. Consistent Expectations - Consistency in expectations; avoid the “do as I say, not as I do” model.
3. Obtainable Expectations - Connect with students by ensuring expectations are within the their capacity.



S.T.A.P.L.E. #2

Post a Variety of Student Work

When completing performance tasks or design projects, displaying work can showcase what students know and can do. Sharing the information and having students explain their work promotes critical thinking and communication skills. Three tips for posting student work include:

1. Posting student work on a physical wall or cyber wall (website).
2. Students serving as docents for a parent/community night to explain their work.
3. Recognize student work through timely, effective feedback.

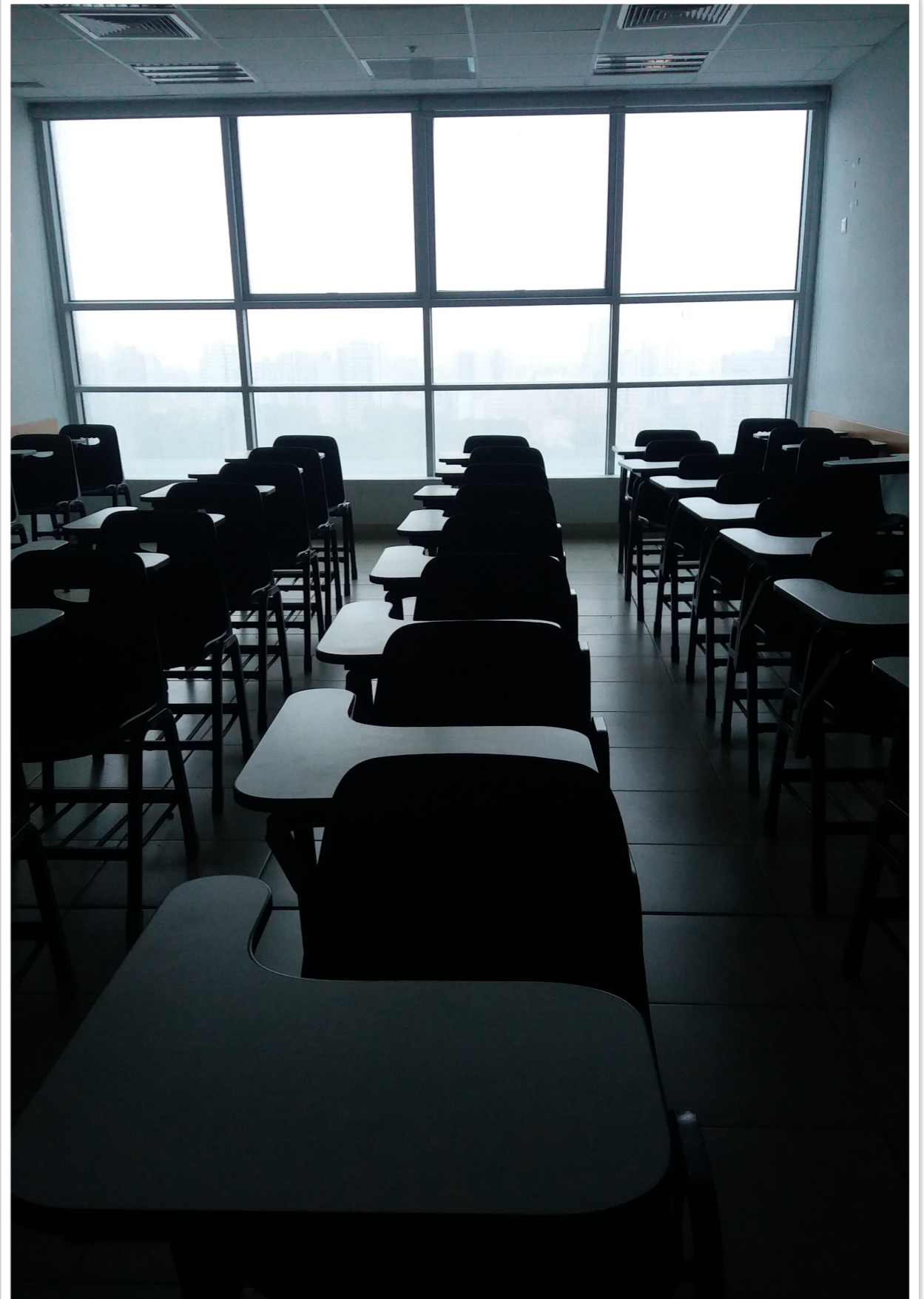
S.T.A.P.L.E. #3

Provide Low Light

Modern lights flicker at rapid speeds causing the eyes to adjust constantly. Technology in the classroom additionally increases lighting for active whiteboards and other screens. Blue lights from these screens further may cause damage to the eyes over time. Keeping the lights low help to reduce eye fatigue and headaches. Three tips to use low light include:

1. Turning out some lights (if applicable) to reduce the amount of light exposure.
2. Place colored cloth on the lights to change the color variation.
3. Add full spectrum/dynamic lamps in the room or change the fluorescent ones.

[5,16,35,46]



S.T.A.P.L.E. #4

Display High Quality Exemplars

Using exemplars in learning can increase understanding of particular skills, content, or knowledge. When students have little to no background knowledge, exemplars can play an essential role in framing their understanding of concepts and ideas. Three critical features for displaying high quality exemplars include:

1. Clarifying use of exemplars for only referencing and not copying.
2. Building background knowledge in new concepts with exemplars.
3. Utilizing a variety of student work samples.

[55,82]





S.T.A.P.L.E. #5

Use Media to Enhance Learning

As digital natives continue to increase in our schools, educators must embrace the use of media to enhance learning. The use of technology in the classroom should support learning, not replace it. Using active boards, student response systems, apps, chrome books, iPads, etc., provides different avenues of engagement for learning. Three tips for using media usage include:

1. Use a variety of technology tools.
2. Teach responsible use of the devices.
3. Allow students to design/create using various media platforms.



S.T.A.P.L.E. #6

Display Different Cultural Perspectives

There are close to 8 billion people globally, representing over 195 countries. The unique diversity in the world should be celebrated and understood. Displaying different cultural perspectives allows students to develop more empathy for others and gain an awareness of our differences and similarities. Three tips for displaying cultural perspectives include:

1. Cultural Dialogue - Have open dialogue on cultural differences among the student body.
2. Cultural Sensitivity - Practice cultural sensitivity by learning about different cultural backgrounds.
3. Diverse Planning - Incorporate diversity in lesson planning.

S.T.A.P.L.E. #7

Use Natural Light

When possible, using natural light from the outside can support learning. Visually, natural light can reduce eye fatigue and help students concentrate. Productivity can increase by boosting vitamin D storage from the sun. Additionally, getting natural light improves mood by influencing serotonin production. Even if the classroom does not have access to natural light, you can still get it. Three tips to obtain natural light include:

1. Schedule times to go outdoors.
2. Make the classroom mobile to use natural lighted areas for learning.
3. Allow natural light in by opening the classroom blinds each day.

[59,68,77]



S.T.A.P.L.E. #8

Display Universal Vocabulary

Exposing students to universal vocabulary is essential for literacy development in the information age. Students must learn words and their meanings to bring context to what is being read or taught. Displaying universal vocabulary exposes students to new terms and develops their knowledge base. Increase vocabulary acquisition for student learning using these three tips:

1. Student should read 30 minutes per day.
2. Expose students to vocabulary that includes transferability to all subjects.
3. Read out loud to students to build their vocabulary base.

[6,42,72]





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