

# BACK TO SCHOOL

NUMBER 3

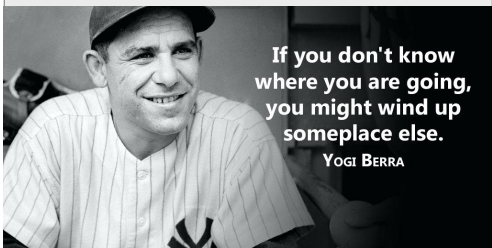


Choosing Excellence™

2018-19

It doesn't matter how much we know. What matters is how clearly others can understand what we know.

*Simon Sinek*



**Question:**

How will you encourage your students to participate in developing and maintaining the class culture?

*Teachers do too much of the work that could be done by students!*

*Developing a class mission statement during the first few weeks of school is a powerful tool that is proven to increase student engagement and responsibility.*

Mission Statements can be developed using different quality tools and strategies. Any of these three, fairly easy methods may be used. They are an Affinity Diagram, Cooperative Class Meeting™, or a Mind Map.

The Mission Statement should be posted in the room, in each student's data folder, reviewed on a daily (weekly) basis and revisited at key points throughout the school year, such as after holidays, semester breaks and testing.

*The mission statement can also serve as your class expectations, rules, etc.*

How to Create a Class Mission Statement Using an Affinity Diagram was the topic of the last newsletter (August 2018), **Creating Missions Using a Cooperative Class Meeting™** is today's feature article and Creating Mission Statements Using Mind Mapping will be the topic of the end of August newsletter.

*Bob*

## Class Mission Statements

### **Option 2: Creating Mission Statements Using Cooperative Class Meetings**

A Cooperative Class Meeting™ blends the best practices of cooperative learning and class meetings. In 1969, in his book *Schools Without Failure*, Dr. Glasser described a three component process for class meetings.

1. **Define**
2. **Personalize**
3. **Challenge**

He recommended having the whole class sit in a circle and discuss the topic using the three components listed above. Usually, the teacher led the discussion through asking questions and calling on students to share their ideas.

In the mid 1980s, I found that cooperative learning strategies worked well with my students, so I took some of those best practices and adapted them to the class meeting process. They are:

1. Creating or assigning groups of three (maximum four)
2. Assigning roles for each student (Reader, Recorder, Reporter)
3. Limiting group resources (Only one copy of the questions per group requires cooperation)
4. Utilizing positive interdependence (All group members contribute answers for all of the questions and need to contribute for the group to be effective)

Ten proven benefits of the Cooperative Class Meeting™ structure are:

1. Increased engagement/participation in learning
2. Increased cooperation skills
3. Increased verbal skills
4. Increased listening skills
5. Increased understanding of thoughts and feelings
6. Increased appropriate expression of thoughts and feelings
7. Increased problem-solving skills
8. Increased understanding and respect for others opinions
9. Increased understanding of academic content
10. Increased ability to self-evaluate and identify strengths and areas for improvement

### **Instructions:**

#### ***Creating a Class Mission Statement Using a Cooperative Class Meeting™***

1. Download the Class Mission Statement Class Meeting (or create your own questions)  
Elementary  
Upper Elementary/Secondary
2. Print one copy for each group
3. Divide the class into groups of three (If you do not have the exact number of students for all groups to have only three members, it is better to have two groups of four than groups of two)
4. Assign, or have the group decide which role (Reader, Recorder, Reporter) each student will assume  
\*If you use Kagan Strategies you can use easily your student group numbers
5. Give the Reader the sheet of questions
6. Set a timer for the appropriate amount of time for the age group of your class. (10 to 20 minutes)
7. Have each of the Reporters share their groups answers

Options:

1. Continue with Small Groups:
  - a. Have each small group write their own Mission Statement and share it with the class
  - b. Have the class choose common components they want to include in the Mission
2. Whole Class:
  - a. List the main concepts from each group. If there are common concepts, put a tally mark next to that entry
  - b. Identify the top three to five words or concepts
8. Have the whole class participate in writing the Mission Statement based on the top 3 to 5 votes
9. Hang the Mission Statement on the wall and refer to it often
10. Have the students write the Class Mission in their data folders or notebooks

[bob@bobhoglund.com](mailto:bob@bobhoglund.com)

(480) 861-3116

<https://bobhoglund.com>

LinkedIn: Bob Hoglund

Facebook: Bob Hoglund, Inc. and Choosing Excellence™

Twitter: bobhoalund