

# STUDENT-CENTERED INSTRUCTION: MANAGING CLASSROOM SPACE

<b>Alphabetical Assignment</b>	<p>Create a seating chart that places students in alphabetical order, and place nametags on student desks. If you have several different classes of students, tape onto the desks an index card that lists each class period and the assigned student's name next to the class period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alphabetical placement makes it easier for some teachers to learn students' names.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students may be more social because it is likely that they have been seated alphabetically in the past.</li> </ul>
<b>Student Choice</b>	<p>Students are free to choose their seats as they enter class. (Freedom to choose one's seat can also be a reward for positive behavior).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enables student choice, which may encourage a level of comfort in the classroom.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students may be more social because it is likely that they will sit with their friends.</li> <li>It may be difficult to learn students' names quickly if they constantly choose new seats.</li> <li>There will be no set chart for substitute teachers.</li> </ul>
<b>Teacher Assigned</b>	<p>Once you get to know students, you should create a seating chart that thoughtfully places individual students. Create and place nametags on the desks, according to your seating chart. If you have several different classes of students, tape an index card onto the desk that lists each class period and the assigned student's name next to the class period. Ask students to find their seats as they enter class.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows teacher to be strategic about placement.</li> <li>If you do this at the beginning of the year, it may help you learn their names more quickly, as you can note their names as you walk around the classroom.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doing this at the beginning of the year does not consider students entering class without being on the master list (to address this situation, ask new students to create their own name card and sit at an open desk).</li> <li>Students may interpret teacher's seating decisions as unfair.</li> </ul>