

Organizing a Room for Competitive Co-Teaching

Or: How to Play the Game without Losing Your Mind



Space, Time, and...Volume

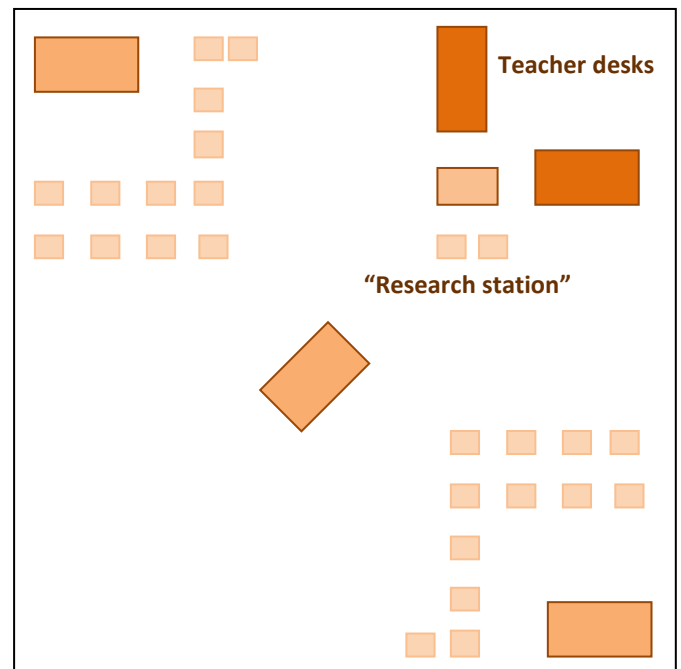
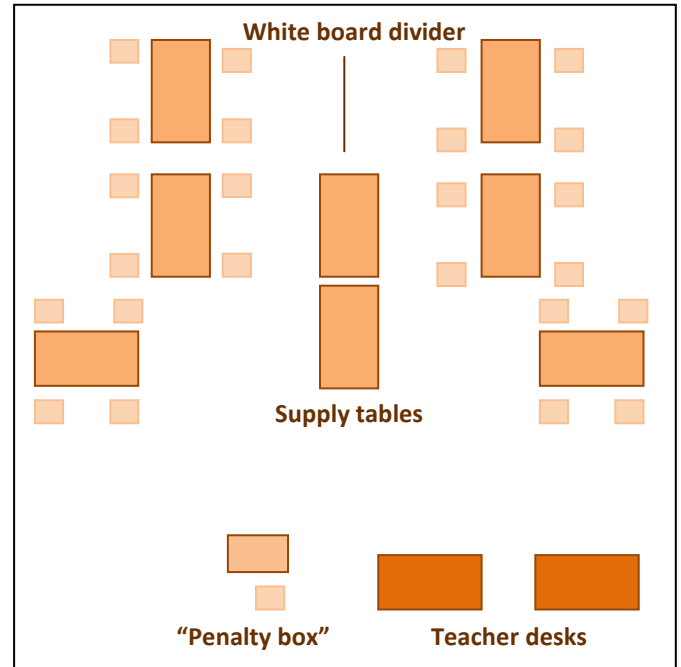
Somewhere in this world there are co-teachers who have access to a separate, vacant room that they can use whenever they want to divide up their class. They probably also have small class sizes, unlimited paid plan time, and gold plated name tags. For the rest of us, creating an environment where two distinct lessons or activities can occur simultaneously is a real challenge. But, it's also not impossible.

The trick is to control each of the three concepts listed above. By manipulating the way you use the space available, the timing of your activities, and the volume that you use,

Two of our favorite techniques for creating separate space are shown on this page, and of course controlling noise level is a matter of classroom management. Timing activities to promote separation (and a lack of chaos), however, is a bit trickier and not a part of most teacher's day-to-day considerations. It requires a bit of planning ahead (and some stopwatches), but the order and spacing of your activities can go a long way towards making this system manageable.

Note the example on the next page. The teachers have organized their activities with three intentions:

1. That the groups not be a distraction to one another.
2. That any partner activities be synced.
3. That overall class volume not become overwhelming.



Example Schedule for Competitive Co-Teaching

Time Frame (in minutes)	Group 1	Group 2
0:00 – 0:10	Bellwork (silent)	Bellwork (silent)
0:11 – 0:15	Review ideas, team scores, and objectives	Introduce partner activity
0:16 – 0:20	Review (cont.)	One partner gathers materials from supply table while the other reviews directions
0:21 – 0:35	Partner review activity (blue card partner)	Partner activity
0:36 – 00:40	Discuss the activity	Students journal about the activity
0:41 – 0:45	Hand out mission packets, review expectations when completing “missions.”	Review team scores, plans, and objectives
0:46 – 0:60	Exploration activity (today’s “mission”) with red card partner	Develop strategy and complete planning sheet (guided by table leaders)
0:61 – 0:65	Review activity	Compare strategies
0:66 – 0:70	Introduce assignment	Introduce assignment
0:71 – 0:85	Assignment work time	Assignment work time