

Teacher Guide: Classroom Norms Activity

This activity is designed to help students create classroom norms with true buy-in. Below you will find talking points and step-by-step instructions you can use on the first day of school. Encourage energy, laughter, and movement—it sets the tone for a positive learning community!

Step 1: Choose Your Snack (5 min)

Talking Point: "On your desk is an index card. Write down ONE snack choice: Takis, Flaming Hot Cheetos, or Doritos (red bag). Don't overthink it—just pick your favorite!"

Tip: Display images of the three snacks on the board for a colorful, engaging start.

Step 2: Ice Breaker (7 min)

Talking Point: "Now, flip your index card over. You'll pull a question card from the stack and write your answer on the back of your card. Be ready to share with your group!"

Tip: Use brightly colored icebreaker cards with fun, student-friendly prompts.

Step 3: Move Into Groups (10 min)

Talking Point: "Now it's time to move! Takis lovers, head to the right. Hot Cheetos, move to the left. Doritos crew—head outside the room. Introduce yourself to your group and share your answer to the icebreaker question."

Tip: Play upbeat background music while groups gather—it keeps the energy high.

Step 4: Create Classroom Norms (15 min)

Talking Point: "Think about the fun and energy you felt in your groups. What norms do we need in this classroom to keep that same feeling every day?"

Each group should brainstorm at least 3 norms and record them. Afterward, we'll share and create our final class norms together.

Tip: Provide colorful chart paper and markers so groups can post their norms around the room.

Sample Norms Students Might Suggest:

Respect all voices	Stay on task so we keep the fun
One person speaks at a time	Encourage each other
Listen actively	Celebrate differences

Wrap-Up:

End by combining group suggestions into a class-created norms poster. Have all students sign it as a symbol of their commitment.

Remember: When students help create the norms, they take ownership of them!