Part I: Describe

Workshop Title: Classroom Management  
Date: 10/13/2008 – 10/17/2008  
Location: Online via Blackboard  
Attendance: N/A  
Presenter: Dr. Barbi Honeycutt

Purpose Statement and General Overview:
The goal of this workshop was to encourage the participants to think about and discuss managing the classroom environment. The workshop took place online using Blackboard over the course of one week. During this time students were given readings and required to discuss those readings with other students using message boards. In total there was a total of 3 readings and 3 discussions.

The first of the 3 discussions were focused on recalling your personal experience in the classroom. The second was a discussion in which we evaluated one professor’s approach to managing their classroom. The final discussion was one in which we discussed issues that we have in our classrooms and their possible solutions.

Part II: Analyze

Through this workshop, I learned that there is no magic bullet when it comes to managing a classroom. I drew this conclusion because no two classrooms have the same dynamics therefore no single approach can be expected to cover all class types. For example, depending on the class if an instructor assumes an authoritarian role to managing the class, the results will vary depending on the class. If the class is full of unruly students this may be a legitimate approach but if the students are timid this approach may make the instructor appear unapproachable and limit the effectiveness of the instructor.

I gave this example because the while it is important to take the role of authority in the classroom you must maintain some balance to be an effective teacher. To make sure that in the future I am more cognitive of this balance I will make sure to provide the students with opportunities to give feedback (anonymously) on my teaching. This way I can better understand what their needs are and create a learning environment that is better tailored to those needs.

One of the required readings was a contract created by an instructor that they required their students to sign. Myself as well as the majority of the other students in the workshop felt that this was a bad idea. Our conclusions were that the syllabus should contain the portions of the content found in the contract and that the inclusion of an additional contract was belittling to the students. As a result, I now understand the importance of adding select behavioral policies to the syllabus is important. Additionally, students should be treated as adults and as an instructor I need to be careful to treat them as such.