Discourse Management in the Studio Classroom

What is meant by Discourse Management

- Developed to enhance a classroom through how it is managed.
- Designed to work with any PER based curriculum (it is a classroom management technique)
- Used in class sizes of 11-72 students
- Works best in classes of 18-30.
- Deliberate creation of a cooperative learning community
- Explicit need for the creation of models and shared tools in science (epistemology). Example
- Creation of shared inter-individual meaning
- Seeding (plant idea and let groups discuss after you plant the idea)
- Intentional lack of closure
- Inter-student discussion
- Formative evaluation
- Goal is to have small group discussions followed by whole class discussions
- I want to be a mostly silent guide

What does classroom look like

Cabinet above table contains most of the Vernier probware for use in Labs. Thus, lab can begin at any time and when appropriate. Center of classroom is for whole class discussions (the “circle”)

Question Quality Makes or Breaks the Discussion

Questions must be robust enough to get different points of view and confront misconceptions or student difficulties. Simple numerical problems not likely to lead to good discussions.

My questions are often open ended and require the students to apply the knowledge they have to that point in the semester (for example: a ball is dropped from 2m).

TIPERs, Ranking Tasks etc are good for discussion.

What is a Studio Classroom?

My classes meet either MW or TTr for 2.5 hours. There is no “lab” or “lecture” time but rather just class. Everything in same room and time is spent on what is most appropriate!

Thanks for Stopping by and Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.