Language

Appreciating its subtle yet profound power

Become aware of language

Become a better listener

Give specific feedback /praise

Who is doing the thinking in your classroom?

Listen to students' language

1st step: Become aware of language + strive to align with intentions.
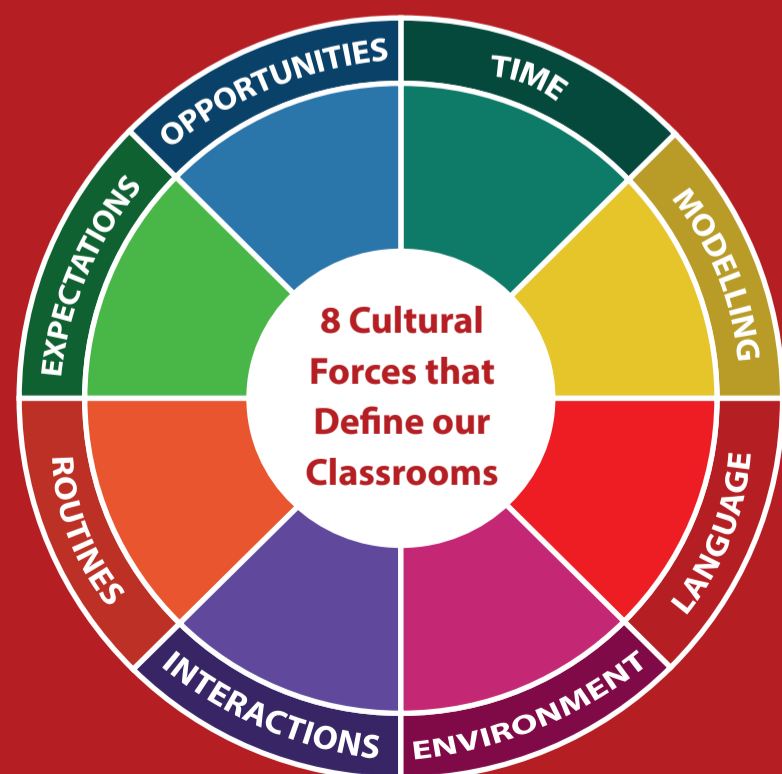
8 Cultural Forces that Define our Classrooms

OPPORTUNITIES · TIME · MODELLING · LANGUAGE · ENVIRONMENT · INTERACTIONS · ROUTINES · EXPECTATIONS

"The language we use influences the way we think."
- Steven Pinker

Language of Thinking

Vocabulary of thinking words.
Replace "Think " with words such as describe, analyse, compare.
Teacher using rich language.
Noticing and naming.

Words. So powerful. They can crush a heart, or heal it. They can shame a soul, or liberate it. They can shatter dreams, or energise them. They can obstruct connection, or invite it. They can create defenses, or melt them. We have to use words wisely.
- Jeff Brown

Language of Mindfulness

Possibility thinking: "might", "could", "may".
Use conditional language.

Language of Listening

Listening starts with genuine interest.
"Before you give your idea, paraphrase what you heard xyz say."

Language of Initiative

Student Agency - make choices.
Slow release of responsibility from Teacher.
"Tell me what you did"
"What's your plan for tackling this? "
"Where will you go next? "

Language of Community

Use inclusive words such as "our", "us", "we".

Language of Praise and Feedback

Praise is not feedback.
Use specific, descriptive and informative language.

RAISE YOUR **WORDS**, NOT YOUR VOICE.
IT IS RAIN THAT GROWS FLOWERS, NOT THUNDER.
- RUMI

Watch your thoughts;
they become words.
Watch your words;
they become actions.
Watch your actions;
they become habits.
Watch your habits;
they become character.
Watch your character;
it becomes your destiny.

Language of Identity

Students see themselves in the learning not outside as observers.
They become scientists, literacy critics...
Framing: Today we are going to be web designers...