

# Life Hacks: Classroom Edition (aka Making EVERY minute count)

# Hello!

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# Agenda & Goals

1. Off to a good start (prepare yourself & your space)
2. Routines & Jobs
3. Maintain & Manage
4. Variety & Familiarity
5. Relationships



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YMMV:  
Your Mileage May Vary



# 1. Off to a good start

**"Don't lick  
the desk."**

Just another Monday.

WE ARE  
TEACHERS

Ways to structure your room & classes

Photo “from” the  
1500s



Does this look familiar? Students lined up in rows. A teacher in front of a blackboard. Sit down; don't talk; eyes up front. Wait for the bell. Walk to the next class. Everything about our lives has moved beyond the industrial era. But American education largely hasn't. [#SXSWEDU](#)



# Seating Arrangements

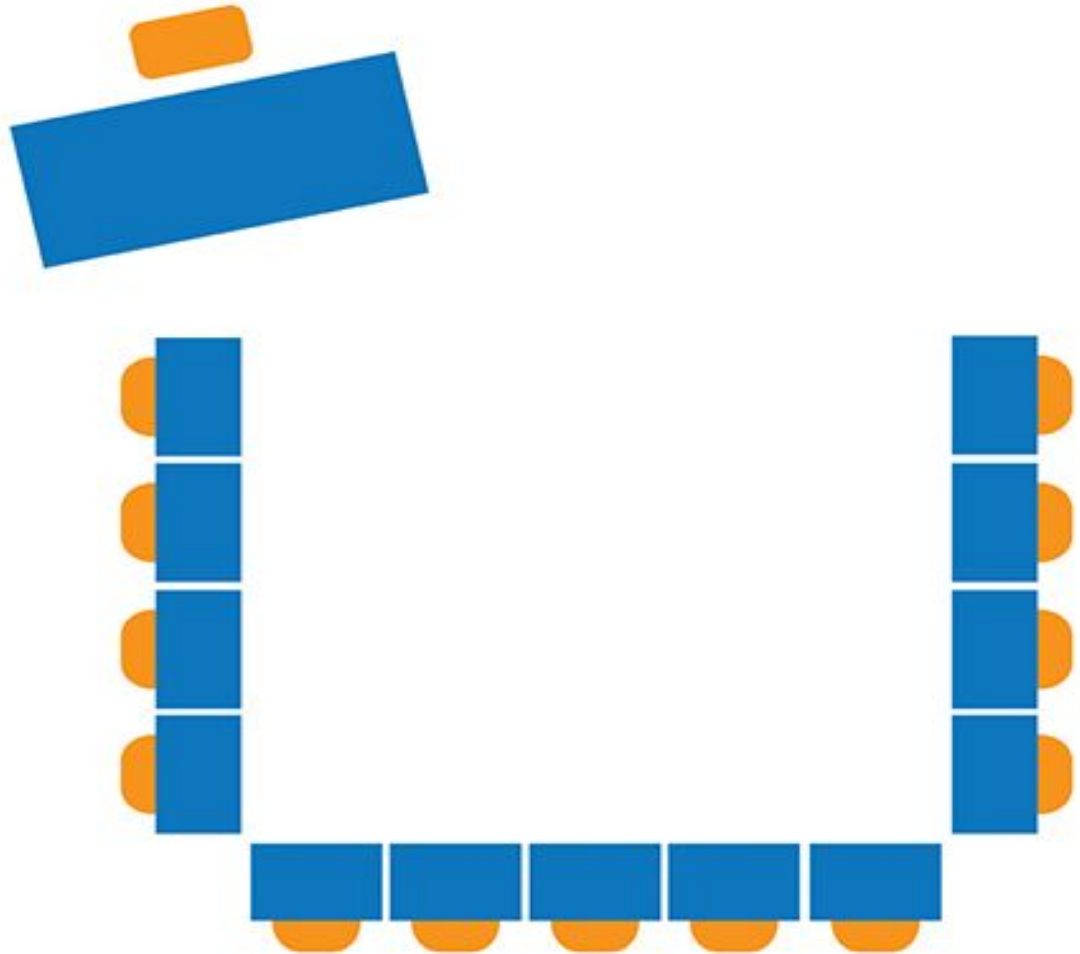
WHY are your desks the way they are?

WHAT does your room arrangement say about your class priorities?





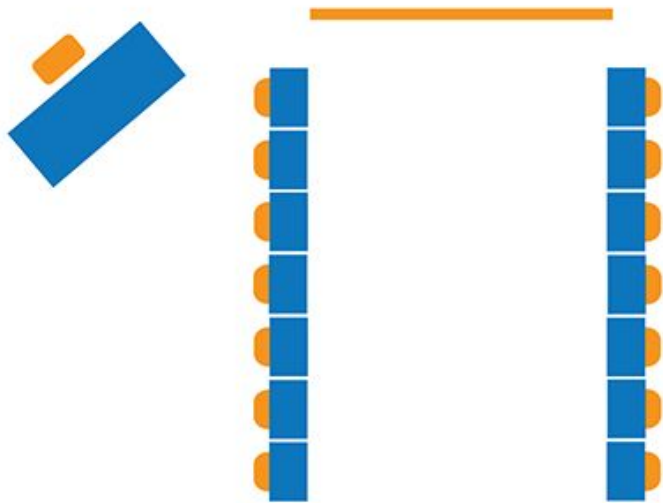
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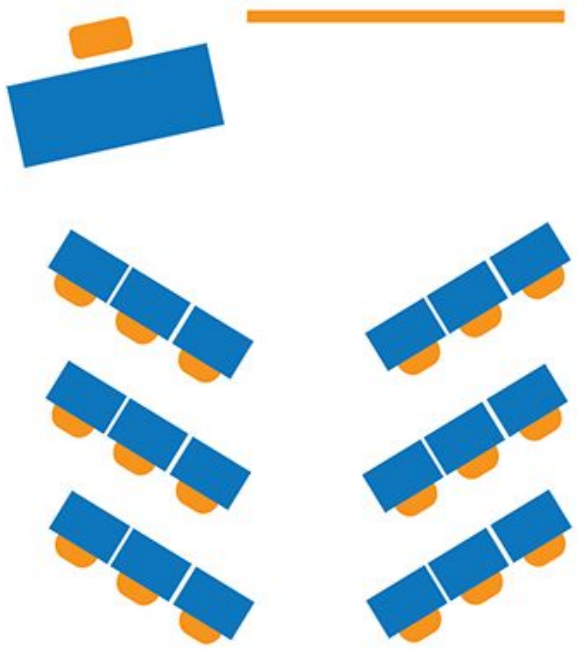
# S D O P



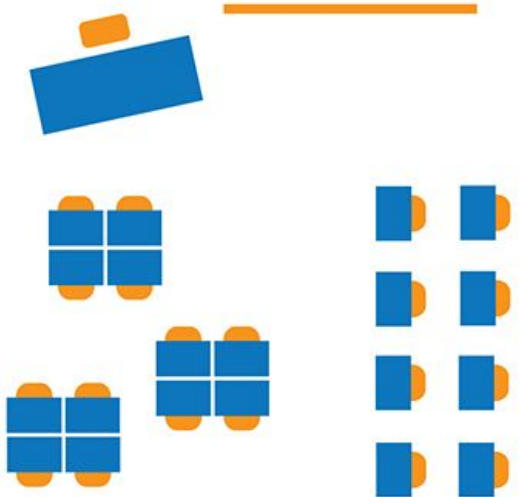
# Runway



# Stadium



# Combination



That moment when it hits you...



## 2. Routines

Train 'em right

# Have a routine!

1. Password
2. Warm-up
3. Old Business (Homework, etc.)
4. Weekly Routine Stuff (Tuesday Music)
5. New Business (Whatever the lesson is)
6. Write and discuss-ish
7. Exit slip?
8. Hasta la vista

# Student Jobs keep the routine running

AKA: What things happen routinely in your room that do NOT require a college degree to do?

<b>Taking attendance</b>	<b>Lights</b>	<b>Prop master</b>	<b>Photographer</b>
<b>Answering the phone</b>	<b>Window control</b>	<b>Observer helper</b>	
<b>Collecting papers</b>	<b>Door control</b>	<b>Greeter/Bouncer</b>	
<b>Paper alphabetizer</b>	<b>Tech Support</b>	<b>Errand runner</b>	
<b>Passing back papers</b>		<b>Substitute Assistant</b>	
<b>Handing out laptops</b>		<b>Hospitality</b>	
<b>Collecting and plugging in laptops</b>		<b>Interpreter</b>	
<b>Checking class supplies</b>		<b>Door person</b>	
<b>Calendar Manager</b>		<b>Teacher Hydrator</b>	
<b>Announcing upcoming school stuff</b>		<b>Mailbox Checker</b>	
<b>“No English” enforcer</b>	<b>Giving out participation points</b>		
<b>Whiteboard Eraser</b>	<b>Absent kid paper collector</b>		
<b>Art supply passer-outer</b>	<b>Sound effect maker</b>		
<b>Clock watcher</b>	<b>Personal Assistant</b>	<b>Cell phone boss</b>	

### 3. Manage & Maintain



Keep things moving smoothly



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# Bathroom Passes



¿Puedo ir  
al baño?

4 passes per quarter

Any unused ones can “buy” things:

Week of free warm ups

\*Day to sit in my comfy chair

\*Brownies

\*Plan a day of class

\*Pick a song we will study

\*Choose your seat for a day

CHEAP &  
EASY

IF THE  
**BUM**  
IS NUMB,  
THE  
**BRAIN**  
IS THE  
**SAME.**



# Brain Breaks

Brain breaks are anything that can get your kids out of their seats and energized for a few minutes so they can continue learning.



# Teacher vs. Class

Earns points for:

Cell phone use

Off-task

Rude language

WHATEVER doesn't meet expectations

Earns points for:

Working hard


Being on task

Using TL

# 4. Variety & Familiarity



Keep it fun, keep it comfortable, keep it familiar



*This is like the  
episode of “Three’s  
Company” where  
there’s some kind of  
misunderstanding.*

*~Chandler Bing,  
Friends*

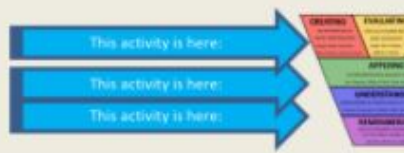




THE  
BOX OF LIES

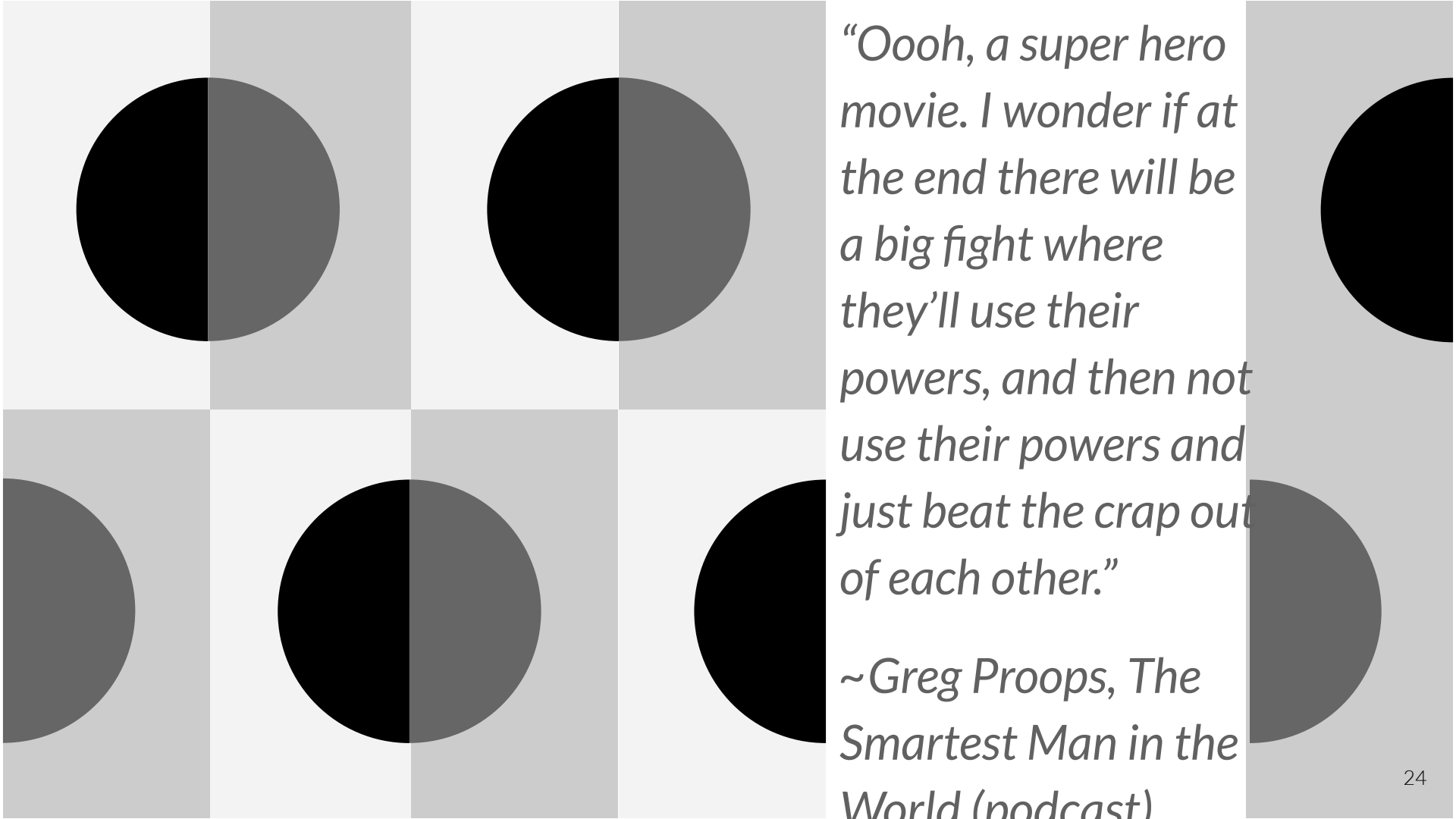
Level-Up  
Language:

1. DETAILS
2. Personalized
3. Creative



Examples from Meredith White:

<https://twitter.com/PRHSspanish/status/798958911097339906>



*“Oooh, a super hero movie. I wonder if at the end there will be a big fight where they’ll use their powers, and then not use their powers and just beat the crap out of each other.”*

*~Greg Proops, The Smartest Man in the World (podcast)*



It's Milking Time



By Hilda Abouf  
Illustrations by

*Milk it.*

**LIONELA**

**BESSI**

**DAIRY COW**





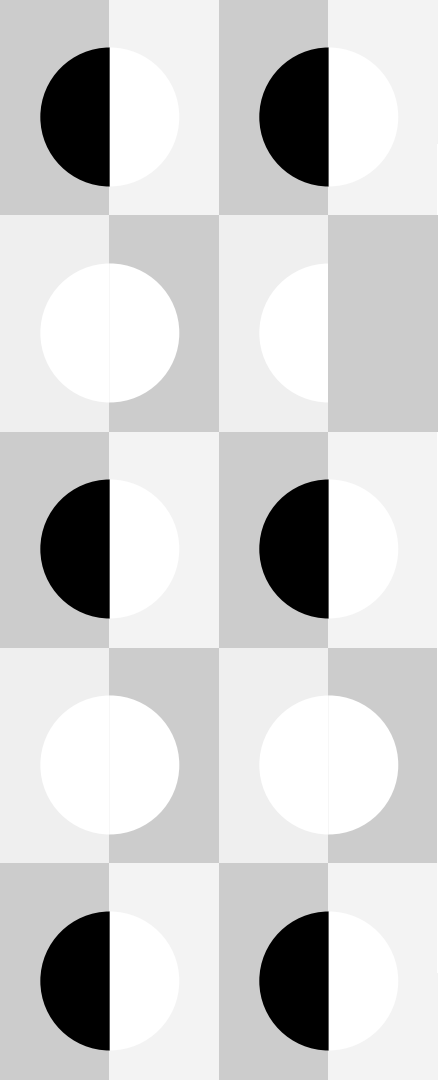
**Meredith White**   
@PRHSspanish

12 hours of prep and \$100 in supplies later: successful breakout box. Now, SLEEP, because holy cow that was a LOT. I think they're ready for tomorrow's assessment!

✓ #langchat



*If you spend 12 hours on planning/set-up and \$100 on the supplies, this had better last more than 20 minutes.*



### Rotation 3 (pink)...

1. Scan the QR code for the audio file.
2. Listen independently OR in the group (share earbuds if needed).
3. Write all TEN DESCRIPTIONS on the line as you hear them, in order.
4. Then, decide if they're (generally) POSITIVE or NEGATIVE traits.
5. As a group, decide on an order for the lock, positive is up, negative is down.
6. Send ONE person to Señora to write down the group's (10 command) answer with invisible pen (on pink paper) and TAPE it to the whiteboard.

# Stations Example

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

**SCAN THE QR CODE AND  
WATCH THE VIDEO.**

**LIST THE WORDS &  
PHRASES YOU  
RECOGNIZED.**

**WHAT'S THE SONG  
ABOUT?**



[http://youtu.be/  
YXnfy5YIDwk](http://youtu.be/YXnfy5YIDwk)

Kara Parker

[www.creativelanguageclass.com](http://www.creativelanguageclass.com)

# Weekly routines w/ Novelty

Movie Monday

Music Monday

Movement Monday

Minute-to-win-it Monday

Menu Monday

Tunes Tuesday

Timed writing Tuesday

Test Tuesday

Wacky Wednesday

World News Wednesday

Work Time Wednesday

Think out of the box Thursday

Throwback Thursday

Technology Thursday

Fun Friday

Feature Film Friday

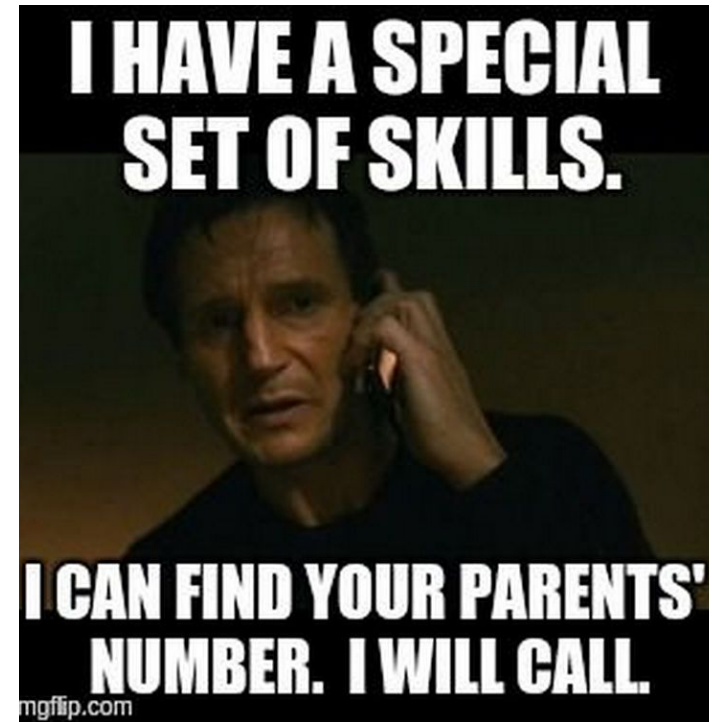
Foto Friday

Funny Friday

Free Write Friday



# 5. Relationships



It's all about this, in the end.



**George Couros** ✓

@gcouros



"Every time you think of calling a kid 'attention-seeking' this year, consider changing it to 'connection-seeking' and see how your perspective changes." Powerful thought from [@JodyCarrington](#)

# Some little things...

Use student names (positive!)

Use student artwork or stories

Class social media

Inside jokes

Make the groups, offer solo option

Make differentiation a habit





# Passwords

# Special Person

[www.brycehedstrom.com](http://www.brycehedstrom.com)

“Persona Especial”

Alina Filipescu (videos on  
youtube)

Interview students...make  
class about them!



# RECAP & SPRINGBOARD



What are you going to take away from this session?

What do you see in a different way?

What is one thing you will totally for sure try to maybe remember to use sometime in your class unless you're so overwhelmed by life that you totally forget about it until a month from now and don't remember what it was to begin with?

# THANKS!

Any questions?

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