

Classroom Core Beliefs

*We give our best **effort** every day. We commit to **growth**, no matter where we are. We read, write, and ask questions to **deepen** our learning. We believe all persons are valuable, and **strive to understand** perspectives that are different than our own. We know that our actions impact others, and do what we can to make sure our **impact** is positive.*

In our classroom, these are the core beliefs that will drive not only our learning, but our culture. And in order to celebrate students for living up to those beliefs, we have our *classroom culture wall* that students will sign every other week to recognize how they are living up to those values and the “look-fors” that fall under them.

The wall is organized in three levels:

- **Top-Line Values:** directly aligned with the core beliefs, these are the five values on the top row that everything trickles down from
- **Look-For's:** these fifteen squares--organized in three rows--are the ways we live out these values in our classroom, with three apiece for each of the top-line values
- **Deeper Outcomes:** at the bottom of the culture wall are the five deeper personal outcomes we hope students strive for over the year--each vital in becoming the best version of themselves as students, professionals, and members of a community.

The Wall's Organization

Top-Line Values	<u>Effort</u>	<u>Growth</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Empathy</u>	<u>Impact</u>
Fifteen Look-For's	Engagement	Reflection	Inquiry	Listening	Collaboration
	Organization	Revision	Precision	Humility	Joy
	Focus	Resilience	Nuance	Generosity	Affirmation
Deeper Outcomes	<i>Reliability</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Creativity</i>	<i>Advocacy</i>	<i>Leadership</i>

There are so many ways a student can succeed and contribute positively to those around them. This wall is meant to *celebrate* these successes and contributions, and also to intentionally name them so that students can strive to broaden and heighten their growth not only academically, but as members of their classroom and school community.

And at the end of the year, we'll reflect on these five questions aligned to deeper outcomes:

1. Do you consider yourself to be **reliable**, and do others see that as well?
2. Have you taken **ownership** of your own academic experience?
3. Do you strive to be **creative** in how you see the world and express yourself?
4. Are you willing to **advocate** for others when they need help?
5. Do you see yourself as a **leader** and strive to make positive impact?

For Implementation:

Day	Top-Line Value	Story / Image	Connection
1	Empathy	Blind men and the elephant	“Just Because” Portrait Poem
2	Depth	Iceberg	Iceberging-the-text Close-read activity, layers
3	Growth	The Crow and the Pitcher	ACT Aspire Reflections, Goal-setting
4	Effort	Sisyphus	Control / Can’t control activity
5	Impact	The Stone and the Steel [Da Vinci]	Targeted Free-Write