

Contextual Classroom Environment – A Contrast

	Traditional Classroom	Contextual Classroom
Purpose	Transmission of factual information	Finding, developing, and applying knowledge to the real world
Organization	Classroom isolated from the world of work; instructors and students work alone	Classroom connected to the community and patterned after the workplace
Role of Instructor	Transmitter of knowledge; expert	Facilitator, coordinator; a knowledgeable guide to finding, developing, and applying knowledge
Role of Student	Passive recipient of facts and information through lectures and text reading	Active engagement in learning; student constructs learning through workplace-relevant activities
Content	Subjects tailored for verbal and mathematical/ logical intelligences	Subject application tailored for multiple intelligences
Method	Lecture; question and answer; little attention to variance in learning styles	Inquiry, discovery, applied learning and methods
Assessment	Testing of facts through paper and pencil (or computer-based) objective tests	Authentic assessment of real-world performance tasks; demonstration of complex problem-solving; creation of portfolios of work; capstone project requiring synthesis of ideas