The Culture of the Interactive Classrooms
Tier One Classrooms

The set up for an interactive classroom environment does not have a particular seating pattern and no front of classroom arrangement. The desired environment for every individual instructor will vary and does not have to be put back together in the traditional seating style for the next instructor who comes into the classroom. The tables and chairs are easy to move and will take less than five minutes to arrange. Students will quickly learn the seating patterns and will be very helpful and willing to move the tables around. The following are a few examples of seating patterns and their purpose for arrangement.
Trust Circle

**Purpose:** Create a private learning circle in which students can collaborate with their power team.

**Objective:**
*The diagram seating can be used for a variety of activities the following are suggestions.*

1. Instructor can assign a data based question in which students can gather in their circle of trust and discuss, identify and describe their findings in a semi private seating arrangement.
2. Instructor can assign in-class review time in which students can collaborate, discuss, and note take in their assigned study group.

**How to:**

Fold five tables in their nesting position and create a circular barrier around the chairs, leaving an exit corner. Students are sitting in a chair only so that open discussion can occur.
Circular Conference & Presentation

**Purpose:** Create a learning presentation in which students can collaborate with other power teams.

**Objective:**
*The diagram seating can be used for a discussion and note taking activity. The instructor facilitates and answers questions. The following are suggestions.*

- Instructor can assign a section of the book in which students in the power teams become the experts in the content area and each power team will take turns sitting in the center tables to discuss the material, while the observers collect data and note key concepts, main ideas, supporting details.
- Instructor can assign in-class reading, problem, presentation etc… and each power team presents or reads aloud the material and other power teams listen for verbal cues and create a list of questions to ask/answer/discuss with presenting team/instructor.

**How to:**
Using the diagram below the students in the center table will face the outer tables so as to address everyone. A table can be used in the center or just chairs.
Purpose: Create a document/ photo/ model learning center in which students can work in power teams.

Objective:
The diagram seating can be used for solving problems, investigating document, using hands on manipulatives etc... The instructor facilitates and answers questions. The following are suggestions.

- Instructor can assign a lab, articles, have photos, models etc... for students to analyze and apply critical thinking and prepare for a class discussion.
- An assembly line approach activity can be implemented using this seating arrangement. A math problem can be placed at the display table and students must approach the problem using a scaffolding method and a student begins the problem the next reviews and continues to the next step and so forth till the completed problem is set back on the display table. A total of 5 problems can be set at the tables.

How to:
Utilizing two tables to form a T shape and lay out the materials on the display table and the power team in the other. Create as many pods as needed.
I-Lecture (Independent Lecture)

**Purpose:** Create an independent/auditorium learning environment.

**Objective:** *The diagram seating can be used for independent learning of new content, note taking, Q&A review or closure of content.*

**How to:** Create one large U-shape table setting and a smaller one on the inside. Have one table set up for instructor/materials etc...
U-Group Collaboration

Purpose: Create a presenting pod for power team collaboration.

Objective:
- The diagram seating can be used for group work in which each student is assigned a participatory role and presents materials to peers from within the U of the table set up.
- Instructor can assign research assignment in which you have the group coordinator/facilitator, reporter/presenter, time/meeting manager, researcher, materials manager, and checker. Roles can be clearly communicated to students on an index card.

How to:
- Create a small U-shaped table set up using three tables. Create 6 pods of five students or depending on the class count.
Panel Forum

**Purpose:** Create an interactive/kinesthetic learning environment

**Objective:** The diagram seating can be used for class interaction with content. Instructor facilitates a class discussion and students choose the left or right side of the class to indicate yes/no, agree/disagree, pros/cons etc... Student discussion for opposing thoughts can be presented/debated/convince/question etc... at the center of the seating arrangement. Students on either side will then have the opportunity to switch sides.

**How to:**
Tier Two Classrooms

The set up for the Tier 2 technology based interactive classroom environment has a different norm than Tier 1. The particular seating pattern is in pods of six groups. Each pod is equipped with a wall monitor, computer a share button and moveable tables and rolling chairs similar to those in Tier 1. The culture of this room is to have students collaborating with one another and researching and working on class content and holding group discussion. The desired environment for every individual instructor will vary and depending on the content of the day. If the instructor would like all students to be facing a speaker the tables and chairs can be re-arranged, but must be put back into the pods for the next instructor. The Tier 2 classroom is set up with a no-front of classroom arrangement. Further instructions on how to utilize the classroom can be provided.