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Rutherford Reflection : Chapter 9

 Perhaps one of the most critical lessons to learn in the 9th Chapter of Rutherford is to have a plan. You must plan. “Plan for the worst, and hope for the best” is a good motto to live by. Having a plan for every contingency will ensure a smooth school day. Teachers should have plans for what to do in the event of a fire, what to do when a student needs to go to the restroom and what is expected for students when they turn in assignments. Plan for what you will do if a student does *not* have his or her assignment. Planning is key and cannot be emphasized enough.

 Classroom layouts are vital. They can make or break a learning environment. The key of laying out a classroom is consideration. Take into consideration each factor that affects the learner. Consider the lighting, A/C vents, window placement (i.e. if the sun shines at a particular angle, will it be blinding to students?), glare from windows behind computer screens, trashcan location – consider it all when laying out your classroom. Do not just use the classroom set up that was in the class when you arrive on day 1, plan it out (unless you’re sharing a classroom with other teachers!)

 Dealing with papers has come to the forefront in my classroom. I underestimated the amount of paperwork students en masse can generate! How will you pick up papers and return them? What should be done with late assignments? This is a hard lesson to learn to juggle, but with proper planning and foresight, a teacher can easily handle this burden.

 Some of the questions I still am not aware of is what exactly to do in the event of a tornado or bomb threat. These things are spelled out in the teacher handbook, but something I need to refresh myself with during my observation time.