

“BUT WHAT WILL THEY GET OUT OF THIS CLASS?” – 20 POWERFUL RESPONSES



The first and most important thing to understand is that no child without a disability has to prove they will get something out of a class to gain entrance. The same standard should apply to students with disabilities. Every student deserves access to the same educational opportunities without justifying their inclusion.

When we ask, “But what will they get out of this class?” it implies that some students must prove their value or potential before being given access. This question suggests that students with disabilities must meet a higher threshold just to participate, which is neither fair nor in line with the principles of equity and inclusion. No student should ever be denied the chance to learn, grow, and contribute simply because someone assumes their abilities or potential are limited.

Instead of asking what they will get out of the class, a better question is, “What do we, as educators, need to do to support this student to be successful in this class?” Inclusion is about creating environments where every student can thrive. It’s about providing opportunities and support so that all students, with and without disabilities, can benefit academically, socially, and emotionally.

Here are 20 responses to the question, “But what will this student get out of this class?”

- 1. Evidence-Based Practice:** "Research consistently shows that all students, regardless of their abilities, benefit from inclusive classrooms. It promotes academic and social development for everyone involved."
- 2. Individual Potential:** "Every student has unique strengths and potential. Our job is to provide the right support and opportunities to help them succeed."
- 3. Diverse Learning:** "Inclusive classrooms offer diverse learning experiences that can enrich the educational environment for all students, encouraging empathy and understanding."
- 4. Support Systems:** "With proper support, such as differentiated instruction and assistive technologies, students with disabilities can thrive in any classroom."

5. Legal Mandates: "Inclusion is not just a best practice but also a legal requirement under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). We have an obligation to provide appropriate education for all students."

6. Social Skills: "Inclusion helps students with disabilities develop important social skills and friendships, which are crucial for their overall development."

7. Collaborative Environment: "Creating an inclusive classroom fosters a collaborative environment where students learn to work together, respect differences, and build a stronger community."

8. Long-Term Success: "Inclusive education prepares all students for real-world experiences where they will interact with diverse individuals, promoting a more inclusive society."

9. Positive Outcomes: "There are numerous success stories where students with disabilities have excelled in inclusive settings. Every student deserves the chance to be part of those success stories."

10. Educator Responsibility: "As educators, it's our responsibility to adapt our teaching methods to meet the needs of all students. By doing so, we can make a significant positive impact on their lives."

11. Learning Styles: "Students learn in different ways, and inclusive classrooms can provide varied teaching methods that cater to diverse learning styles, benefiting everyone."

12. Peer Learning: "Peers can be powerful teachers. Inclusive classrooms allow students to learn from one another, fostering a community of mutual support and growth."

13. Whole Child Approach: "Education is about more than academics. It's about nurturing the whole child, including their social, emotional, and cognitive development."

14. Adaptability: "Our teaching strategies should be flexible and adaptable to meet the needs of all students. This adaptability often enhances the learning experience for the entire class."

15. Positive Behavior: "Inclusive classrooms often see improved behavior as students with and without disabilities learn to interact positively and supportively."

16. Teacher Growth: "Teaching in an inclusive setting can enhance our own professional skills, making us more effective and compassionate educators."

17. Equal Opportunities: "Every student deserves equal opportunities to learn and participate. Excluding them denies them their right to education."

18. Real-Life Scenarios: "Inclusive classrooms mirror real-life situations where people of all abilities interact, preparing students for life beyond school."

19. Innovative Solutions: "Inclusion often leads to innovative teaching solutions that can benefit all students, not just those with disabilities."

20. Empathy and Understanding: "Inclusive education fosters empathy and understanding among students, creating a more compassionate and supportive school culture."



THE INCLUSION PODCAST

Episode 45

“BUT, WHAT WILL THEY GET OUT OF THIS CLASS?”

Tired of defending inclusion?

Episode 45 gives you 20 practical ways to respond —grounded in real classrooms and real students.

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