**Use the following basic theoretical assumptions of the following theories to explain what happens in a classroom.**

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| **Theory** | **Assumptions** | **Apply to a Classroom** |
| **Structural**  **Functionalism** | * Explains how a society is organized to perform its required function effectively * The family is an institution within society * Individuals within society have roles to play, and each role has a status * The most prevalent behaviours are called norms * Change can occur if the structures within society can adjust to maintain an equilibrium, but this usually happens slowly |  |
| **Systems Theory** | * Attempts to explain how groups of individuals interact as a system (e.g. families) * There are subsystems within the systems(e.g. marital, parental, sibling) * A change with one member of the system affects all others |  |
| **Symbolic**  **Interactionism** | * Explains how individuals choose how they will act based on their perceptions of themselves and of others * People need to give meaning to their experiences before they can act on them * Individuals communicate with one another, but they may give different meanings to actions and words |  |
| **Social Exchange Theory** | * Explains the social factors that influence how individuals interact within relationships * Within their roles, individuals act to maximize the benefits they receive and minimize the costs to themselves * Benefits to and costs of relationships are based on individuals’ perceptions, not on facts |  |
| **Conflict Theories** | * Explains how power hoods society together * States that conflict exists between groups because of inequalities in power * Assumes groups compete with one another to meet their needs, but the needs of all groups cannot be met |  |
| **Feminist Theories** | * Explain the impact of sex and gender on behavior * Consider issues from the viewpoint of women * Examine gender bias * Believe change is required to meet the needs of all people |  |