**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
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| **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
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| **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
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| **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
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| **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
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| **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
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