



FIGURE 28.1

## Co-Teaching Commitment Ceremony & Vows

Looking for a way to communicate your commitment to collaboration? How about getting professionally “hitched” to your co-teaching partner?

Arrange a few chairs in front of your shared desks or in front of any area of special significance to the two of you (e.g., an interactive white board, your new children-of-the-world area rug, the human skeleton model you picked out together). Fill these seats with colleagues who have supported your work so far this year; they will serve as your witnesses. Have your principal, superintendent or custodian stand before all of you to officiate. Begin the ceremony by having your officiant read the opening words.

### Opening Words

*We are gathered here today in the [insert location here] and in the presence of our colleagues to join together this team. If any person knows any reason these two should not be joined as co-teaching partners, speak now or forever save it for staff lounge gossip.*

Then, exchange vows you have written or choose one of the options provided.

### Vows: Traditional Ceremony

*I \_\_\_\_\_ promise to occasionally take your lunchroom duty; do the read aloud if you need to repair the classroom laminator again; let you go to the bathroom whenever the need arises; and share responsibilities like copying, developing rubrics and making parent phone calls. Through flu season, epic IEP meetings and fire drills I promise to be your partner, unless I have a sub. I won't necessarily obey you, but I will cherish all of the times you get coffee for me. This is my solemn vow.*

### Vows: Contemporary Ceremony

*I \_\_\_\_\_ promise to stand by you \_\_\_\_\_ through state testing, Spirit Week, parent-teacher meetings and yet another conference on rigor, readiness or relevance. If at some point, we are blessed to be able to adopt new curriculum together, I will support you in this and will stay late after school (or at least until I have to leave to get my kids/take my dog out/coach Robot Club) and plan with you to the best of my ability. I promise to honor you and respect you for at least this school year or until the administration moves one of us to a different grade level or department.*

To make this ceremony as meaningful as possible, consider exchanging something as a small token of your willingness to continue growing and learning as a team (e.g., an eraser, a Bunsen burner, a pack of colorful felt tip pens, a Diet Coke).

Now that you are officially hitched, take yourselves down to the staff lounge to celebrate. You both deserve it.