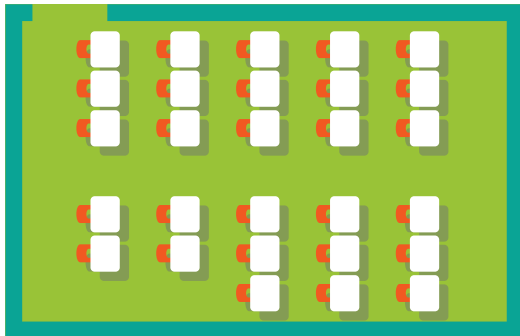


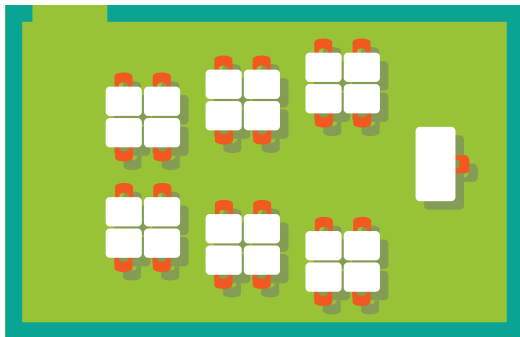
FIGURE 17.1

Physical Space. A traditional arrangement of desks in rows works

well for direct instruction, whereas small group work or pair-share discussions benefit from cluster arrangements. Teachers should choose the seating that best matches the type of instruction they intend to use.



The traditional *auditorium arrangement*, with all desks in rows facing the teacher, is most effective when the teacher wants students' attention to be focused on direct instruction and wants to minimize interaction between students (Renne, 1997).



In general, face-to-face seating (such as *clusters*) leads to higher student distraction; however, this seating arrangement is ideal to facilitate collaboration during small-group activities.