Understanding Your Role as a GTA

Dr. Jenny Parker - August 16, 2016

Importance to NIU

Confidence in You!

Preparation, Passion, Interest

Preparation

• Things to do before the semester begins
  – Visit the classroom
  – Learn how to use the classroom technology
  – If you are a TA, meet with the supervising professor and learn expectations

• Things to do before class
  – Prepare substantively
    • IT IS OK TO ADMIT THAT YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER
  – Prepare procedurally

Passion

• How do you know if your teacher/speaker is passionate about teaching and the content?
  • The 5E’s
    – Enthusiastic
    – Excited
    – Experienced
    – Energetic
    – Early
Interest

- Take an interest in your students and their success
  - Get to know their names
  - Talk to them before class
  - Encourage them to come to office hours
  - If they don't do well on an assignment or an exam, encourage them to meet with you

Don’t ignore failing students!

Other thoughts

- Be yourself
- They will try to test you!
- If you need to be loved, then teaching is not for you
- Take a risk!
- Have fun!

Rise to the Challenge

Summary

- You are important to NIU
- You have earned your place – NIU is confident in you 😊
- Be prepared, be passionate, show interest
- Rise to the challenge!