Preparing to Teach and Support Learning

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August 20, 2013

Three Keys to Effective Teaching
- 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

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!

Taking Control of the Classroom
- Be on time and be ready to go
- Make expectations clear
  - Go over the syllabus
  - This is your one chance to set the tone for the semester!
- Deal with discipline problems when they occur
- Be consistent
  - If you tell the class that you won’t accept late papers, then don’t accept them
- Have fun, but be professional
Other things to keep in mind

• How would you like the students to address you?

• Be yourself

• They will try to test you!

• If you need to be loved, then teaching is not for you

• Have fun!