Understanding Your Role as a GTA

Dr. Matthew Streb • August 19, 2015

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

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 things to keep in mind

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

Summary

• You are important to NIU
• Be prepared, be passionate, show interest
• Be confident
• Rise to the challenge!