Understanding Your Role as a Teaching Assistant

Importance to NIU

Dr. Jenny Parker - August 21, 2018

Confidence in You!

Preparation, Passion, Interest

Preparation

• Things to do before the semester begins
  – Visit the classroom
  – Learn how to use the classroom technology
  – 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!

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!