

Tools for Teaching

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Modern Tools for teaching

- ▶ **For 100s of years:** professor reading a lecture to an audience of note taking students.
- ▶ The professor's duties were to compose and present authoritative lectures, to test students on their knowledge, and to assign grades.
- ▶ **Over the last thirty years:** new understanding of what constitutes effective college level instruction.
- ▶ Research on students' academic success and intellectual development: effectiveness of modes of instruction that emphasize active learning and collaborative activities and engage students in intellectual discovery.
- ▶ According to this view, the instructor's task is to interact with students in ways that enable them to acquire new information, practice new skills, and reconfigure and expand on what they already know.

- ▶ Organizing and explaining material in ways appropriate to students' abilities.
- ▶ Creating an environment for learning.
- ▶ Helping students become autonomous, self-regulated learners.
- ▶ Reflecting on and evaluating their teaching.

First day of Class

- ▶ It sets the tone for the rest of the term.
- ▶ Natural for both to feel anticipation, excitement, anxiety, and uncertainty
- ▶ Convey your enthusiasm for the material and stimulate students' curiosity about topics that will be covered during the term.
- ▶ To reduce students' anxiety and uncertainty, try to create a relaxed, open classroom environment conducive to inquiry and participation, and
- ▶ Let students know what you will expect from them and what they can expect from you and the course.
- ▶ For a good start, address the three important tasks of the first day: **creating an open friendly classroom environment**, and **setting course expectations**, and **standards**

First day: General Strategies

- ▶ Build a sense of community in the classroom.
- ▶ Address students' concerns.
- ▶ Set the tone for the rest of the semester.

- ▶ Treat each student as an individual, and respect each student for who he or she is.
- ▶ Do your best to be sensitive to terminology.
- ▶ Get a sense of how students feel about the cultural climate in your classroom
- ▶ Emphasize the importance of considering different approaches and viewpoints.
- ▶ Make it clear that you value all comments.
- ▶ Encourage all students to participate in class discussion.

- ▶ Monitor your own behavior in responding to students.
 - ▶ Recognizing students who raise their hands or volunteer to participate in ...
 - ▶ Listening attentively and responding directly
 - ▶ Addressing students by name (and with the correct pronunciation)
 - ▶ Prompting students to provide a fuller answer or an explanation
 - ▶ Giving students time to answer a question
 - ▶ Crediting student comments
 - ▶ Giving feedback and balancing criticism and praise
 - ▶ Making eye contact