

Teaching Tips

Set the Stage

1. Communicate clear expectations early.
2. Study Hard. Know more than you show.
3. Provision Well. Have all materials ready.
4. Be all you can be. Here is a list of teaching traits students like:¹
 - a. Fairness—treating everyone equally and making judicious decisions.
 - b. Appearance—believe it or not they consider your grooming!
 - c. Humor—This does not mean you tell jokes but that you simply have a sense of humor (i.e. don't take yourself too seriously)
 - d. Courtesy—who would have thought that was important to a student?
 - e. Respect—They don't always give it, but they want it!
 - f. Realness—Students can sniff out inauthentic people quickly. They crave honesty and integrity.
 - g. Reestablishing Contact—students appreciate it when a teacher makes an effort to bridge the gap again after a disciplinary action.
 - h. Active listening—Don't glaze over! Show interest. Repeat back to them what they are saying.

Gain Momentum

1. Begin with enthusiasm.
2. Prepare smooth transitions.
3. Discuss.
 - a. Use open-ended questions.
 - b. Use imaginative and specific questions.
 - c. Create vivid scenarios.
 - d. Ask questions that make them experts (e.g. 'What makes someone popular?')
4. Channel Distractions. Be prepared to steer discussions back on track.

Hit Them Between the Eyes

1. Be relevant.
 - a. Use their language.
 - b. Consider their opinions
 - c. Consider their problems.
 - d. Discuss and listen to feedback.
2. Determine a MAIN IDEA for every lesson.
3. Drive home the Main idea:
 - a. Repeat the Main Idea
 - b. Restate the Main Idea
 - c. Illustrate the Main Idea
 - d. Apply the Main Idea

Shut It Down

1. Land the plane!
 - a. Plan your exit.
 - b. Stick your landing. (Don't start up again or introduce a new idea)
 - c. End with a bang.

¹ John Saphier and Robert Gower, *The Skillful Teacher* (Carlisle: Research for Better Teaching, 1997), pp.346-349.