

# 10 Things I Wish I Would Have Known Before I Started Teaching

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November 6, 2006

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- **Never** deviate from the expectations that you laid out in the syllabus
- The only thing worse than a "bad rule" on the syllabus, is changing it mid-semester

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- If given the opportunity, students will try to take advantage of you (though, this is often not intended to be malicious)

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- If you're having fun, I bet that they will like you

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- Encourage students to explore "why" on their own as often as possible

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- Also, it's OK to admit that you don't know something..., but you should tell them that you will find out and let them know later (make sure you follow through)

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- Learn to feel comfortable in the silence

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- However, if students are taking notes, there is a limit to how much they can write down and still follow what's going on in class



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- "Why do we have to learn this stuff?"
- "Do we have to know this for the test?"
- "I don't get it!?"

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- Hmm, what is the point?

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- What's the point of your lecture?
- What's the purpose of the class you are teaching?
- What's the purpose of learning anything?

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- Have you told the students any of the answers to these questions?

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- Or, have you asked them to think about these things?
- Do the answers to these questions change how you teach? I think that they should!

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- Otherwise, your butt will wiggle!!!

# Alright, your turn!

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Get into groups of 3 and brainstorm at least 3 more things that would be useful for all of us to know. We'll share these ideas with each other in a few minutes.