

SWAP SESSION NEWSLETTER

SWAP SESSION: *“Teaching Tips for Graduate Teaching Assistants”*

given by

Dr. Vicki Clegg, Director of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning. Ms. Gretchen Esping, a doctoral candidate in Educational Administration and GTA for the Center. Mr. Mike Davis, doctoral candidate in History and 2002 GTA recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

No. 33

Swap Session held: 09-18-02

Sponsored by the Faculty Exchange for Teaching Excellence

MR. DAVIS'S NECESSARY ATTITUDES FOR SUCCESSFUL TEACHING

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1. Enthusiasm

- How does a teacher appear to be enthusiastic?
 - appear friendly, smile a lot, use jokes
- How does a teacher get their students to be enthusiastic?
 - when it's early
 - when they hate class
 - when they have to be there
- What are some innovative ways to encourage enthusiasm?
 - film clips/ videos
 - guest speakers

2. Caring

- How does a teacher appear to be caring?
 - learn names of students
 - come to class early
 - be organized, i.e. strong syllabus

3. Confidence

- How does a teacher demonstrate confidence?
 - not afraid to say you don't know the answer
 - getting back to students with answers to their questions
 - letting students speak up even when they're wrong

Ms. Esping handed out “Advanced Organizers” to assist us in organizing our notes for her lecture. She also distributed her handouts during her lecture and noted that sometimes handing out information before the lecture serves as a distraction to students and may cause them to miss important points.

PROFESSIONALISM

You have been chosen to be a GTA

1. Because you know the information...so make sure that you do!
2. Be organized. Think about what and how you will present the information. Think carefully about the language you use to present information.
3. Be accepting of the students and where they are in their developmental stage. GTA's are developing too, and we're all in “the process” together.
4. Take on the role of teacher/ professor in training...set yourself apart from your students.

HANDOUT

GTA's have a tendency to go to their peers for information as opposed to their supervisor.

- Peers aren't always the most knowledgeable, but they are with whom the GTA feels the most comfortable.
- Peers can be excellent source of information however, just make sure that the information is accurate.

Dr. Vicki Clegg

"Teaching is a thinker's game."

You have to:

- 1.) Think ahead
- 2.) Think on your feet
- 3.) Think about what just happened

SCENARIO DISCUSSION

Dr. Clegg had prepared four different scenarios for everyone to discuss. These scenarios covered issues that varied from cheating to technology complications in the classroom. We were split into groups to discuss these scenarios and how we would react to them in our own classrooms.

SCENARIO #1

-Suspect a student of cheating

- Approach the student. Do not accuse but show concern.
- Avoid accusing unfairly.
- Do something! If you do nothing students will think you don't care.
- Stand near the student.
- Move the student.
- Know the Honor System.

SCENARIO #2

-Complete silence after you've asked a question

- Ask someone from a certain area of the class to respond to the question in effort to avoid singling out one student in particular.
- Ask yourself why they are silent? Did they read? Are they afraid they will appear stupid?

SCENARIO #3

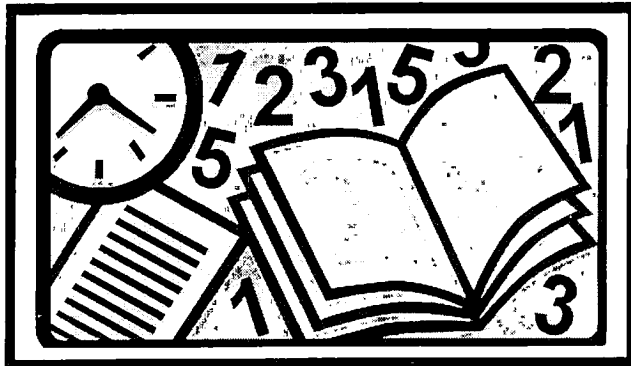
- Asked a question that you don't know the answer to
 - Ask other students, generate discussion
 - React positively. Welcome the challenge
 - Model for students your own thinking processes
 - Think for a minute, take some time and talk yourself through
 - If the answer doesn't come to you, ask other students or offer to locate the answer and get back to them

SCENARIO #4

- Technology complications
 - Always have a back-up plan
 - Don't ever rely on one method
 - Have some flexibility
 - Do it the old-fashioned way...you talk, they take notes.

CLOSING QUESTIONS

- How do you get students engaged in the learning process?
- Can teachers monopolize lectures too much?
- How do you increase interaction between and among students?
- How do you know students are learning?
- How do you write tests that actually evaluate?
- What do you do with students who hand in assignments late or simply do not do them?
- How do you keep the GTA on task?
- How can you convince your supervisor to let you use creative new methods for teaching in large classrooms?



UPCOMING EVENTS :

SWAP SESSION:

Oct. 16, 10:30am, Flint Hills Room

John Bean from Seattle University

“Low Cost Writing Assignments: How to Use Writing to Enhance Learning and Critical Thinking Without Increasing the Teacher’s Burden”

CONVERSATIONS OVER COFFEE:

Nov. 1, 7:30 AM (time tentative)

State Rooms 2 & 3 off the food court area of the Student Union: “Technology in Teaching”

SWAP SESSION:

Nov. 22, 1:30 PM (room TBA)

Gretchen Holden and Andrea Blair

“Dealing with Disabilities in the Classroom”