

“Nine Essential Traits of the Effective Professor”

Mark V. Palumbo

November 14, 2012

Presentation prepared for the Large Group Meeting
of the *Reflective Practice Project*

Sponsored by the

IUP Center for Teaching Excellence,

Mary Anne Hannibal, Director

<http://www.iup.edu/teachingexcellence/>

Credits:

This workshop was presented at
the Teaching Professor Conference

by Ellen Smyth

Austin Peay State University

smythe@apsu.edu

“Why is this topic important?”

“Why should we care what our students think about effective teaching, especially when their ideas are so different from our own?”

“We are paid to teach,
not to be popular.”

“Why is this topic important?”

**“If we are not listening to our students,
then our students are not listening to us.”**

- can dramatically affect learning
- can raise rapport in the classroom
- can improve student-evaluations

Where did we get this information?

The Research

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Participants. University students

Measures.

Demographics. Nine items, Identifying:

1. Gender
2. University level (Undergraduate, Graduate)
3. Number of courses completed successfully
4. Student status (Part-time, Full-time)
5. Employment status
6. Age
7. Reason for attending the university
8. Faculty with which they study
9. Have successfully completed a distance course

Where did we get this information?

The Research

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Measures (continued).

Survey. Open-ended questions—repeated 5 times

1. Identify a characteristic of on-campus effective teaching;
2. Describe the characteristic
3. Identify instructor behaviors that demonstrate that characteristic
4. Rank that characteristic. Likert-type scale:
1 = Least Important, 5 = Most Important

Where did we get this information?

The Research

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Measures (continued).

Survey. Open-ended questions—repeated 5 times

1. Identify a characteristic of online effective teaching;
2. Describe the characteristic
3. Identify instructor behaviors that demonstrate that characteristic
4. Rank that characteristic. Likert-type scale:
1 = Least Important, 5 = Most Important

Where did we get this information?

The Research

Memorial University of Newfoundland

Analysis.

Consolidated synonymous & similar terms

Identified these 9 traits...

The Topmost Trait...

RESPECTFUL

FLEXIBLE

Diplomatic

Caring

Open-minded

Compassionate

Realistic

Reasonable

Understanding

Humble

Consistent

Helpful

CONCERNED

Sincere

Kind

Trustworthy

Patient

Empathetic

Fair

FACE-TO-FACE

1. **RESPECTFUL**

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

ONLINE

1. **RESPECTFUL**

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

So... How can we show respect???

The Second Trait...

KNOWLEDGEABLE

Qualified

Current

Reflective

Competent

Flexible

Practical

Credible

FACE-TO-FACE

1. RESPECTFUL
- 2. KNOWLEDGEABLE**
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

ONLINE

1. RESPECTFUL
- 2.
- 3. KNOWLEDGEABLE**
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

List 3 ways that YOU demonstrate Knowledge.

Trait #3...

APPROACHABLE

POSITIVE

FRIENDLY

HELPFUL

HAPPY

Personable

ACCESSIBLE

FACE-TO-FACE

1. RESPECTFUL
2. KNOWLEDGEABLE
3. **APPROACHABLE**
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

ONLINE

1. RESPECTFUL
- 2.
3. KNOWLEDGEABLE
4. **APPROACHABLE**
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

List 3 ways that you can be more Approachable.

The 4th Trait is...

ENGAGING

Positive

Charismatic

Interesting

Passionate

Motivating

Enthusiastic

Interactive

Creative

Stimulating

Assertive

Energetic

FACE-TO-FACE

1. RESPECTFUL
2. KNOWLEDGEABLE
3. APPROACHABLE
- 4. ENGAGING**
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

ONLINE

1. RESPECTFUL
- 2.
3. KNOWLEDGEABLE
4. APPROACHABLE
- 5.
- 6.
- 7. ENGAGING**
- 8.
- 9.

How can we become more Engaging???

Trait #5...

COMMUNICATIVE

CLEAR

UNDERSTANDABLE

CONSTRUCTIVE

ATTENTIVE

THOROUGH

So you do want to work on these,

BUT...

Trait #5...

COMMUNICATIVE

Don't forget about Non-Verbal Cues!!!

“The power of non-verbal communication is (often) hugely underestimated, and yet this power is what separates and distinguishes world-class presenters” from the rest!

Trait #5...

COMMUNICATIVE

Don't forget about Non-Verbal Cues!!!

- Move around the room with ease.
- Speak directly to only one student at a time, with rapt attention.
- Use exaggerated hand, body, and facial gestures to emphasize and illustrate points.
- ...and...

Trait #5...

COMMUNICATIVE

**“Our most important facial gesture,
as silly as it sounds,
is our smile.”**

Trait #5...

COMMUNICATIVE

“Our most important facial gesture, as silly as it sounds, is our smile.”

“Just by the simple act of smiling, we make ourselves more interesting, more approachable, and more likeable.”

FACE-TO-FACE

1. RESPECTFUL
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3. APPROACHABLE
4. ENGAGING
- 5. COMMUNICATIVE**
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

ONLINE

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- 2.
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4. APPROACHABLE
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- 6.
7. ENGAGING
- 8.
- 9.

How can we be more communicative?

What about Trait #6...?

ORGANIZED

Efficient

Focused

Prepared

FACE-TO-FACE

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- 8.
- 9.

ONLINE

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- 2.
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- 6. ORGANIZED**
7. ENGAGING
- 8.
- 9.

List one area where you will improve your organization.

The 7th Trait is...

RESPONSIVE

Available

Perceptive

Accommodating

Helpful

EFFICIENT

FACE-TO-FACE

1. RESPECTFUL
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3. APPROACHABLE
4. ENGAGING
5. COMMUNICATIVE
6. ORGANIZED
7. **RESPONSIVE**
- 8.
- 9.

ONLINE

1. RESPECTFUL
2. **RESPONSIVE**
3. KNOWLEDGEABLE
4. APPROACHABLE
5. COMMUNICATIVE
6. ORGANIZED
7. ENGAGING
- 8.
- 9.

How can we improve Responsiveness?

The 8th Trait...

PROFESSIONAL

Dependable

Punctual

Confident

Hygienic

Dedicated

EFFICACIOUS

FACE-TO-FACE

1. RESPECTFUL
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3. APPROACHABLE
4. ENGAGING
5. COMMUNICATIVE
6. ORGANIZED
7. RESPONSIVE
8. **PROFESSIONAL**
- 9.

ONLINE

1. RESPECTFUL
2. RESPONSIVE
3. KNOWLEDGEABLE
4. APPROACHABLE
5. COMMUNICATIVE
6. ORGANIZED
7. ENGAGING
8. **PROFESSIONAL**
- 9.

How can you be more professional???

...and # 9... The FINAL Trait...

HUMOROUS

“Laughter is powerful and infectious.”

“When we tie humor to the content, our material becomes many times more memorable.”

...and, along with humorous, students include:

Positive

Happy

FACE-TO-FACE

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3. APPROACHABLE
4. ENGAGING
5. COMMUNICATIVE
6. ORGANIZED
7. RESPONSIVE
8. PROFESSIONAL
9. HUMOROUS

ONLINE

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▣ **So... Try telling a joke!!!**

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Now you know what students think...

What do YOU think?

Discussion...

...to be continued... We hope!