

Twenty Ways Rock the First Day!

1. Visit the classroom ahead of time.
2. Be prepared and organized; learn how the technology works.
3. Arrive early and start on time.
4. If possible, arrange classroom seating to your liking.
5. Put a thought-provoking question or image on the board or screen.
6. Greet students as they walk in the door.
7. Share three statements about yourself; students vote on which one is false.
8. Conduct an icebreaker; don't assume students know each other's names.
9. Model the way classes will run during the semester.
10. Give students an active role as you introduce course content.
11. Have students create a concept map of a course topic.
12. Connect a key course topic to a current event.
13. Stage a "coffee break" and change pace twenty minutes into class.
14. Move around the room.
15. Use index cards to gather baseline info on skills, knowledge or attitudes.
16. Hold a dialogue about mutual expectations for professor and students.
17. Share your enthusiasm for the subject.
18. Conduct a "Common Sense Inventory" [Nilson, 2003]
19. Seek student feedback with a "Minute Paper" [Angelo & Cross, 1993]
20. End the class on time — neither early nor late.