

Establishing the Identity of the Class and Instructor

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Abstract

Major tasks faced by instructors include establishing class identity and their identity for students. I will share tips for doing so based upon almost 40 years of teaching and ask participants to share their tips. To establish the course identity, I use advance assignments for the first day to get them thinking about the course before the semester starts and to set a tone. To set work expectations, a book and an associated quiz are assigned for the second week of class. I have an overarching theme for each course I teach which organizes the material and motivates the student (e.g., becoming wealthy for Behavioral Finance, manipulating others to make money for Organizational Behavior).

To help establish my identity as instructor, I will share my application of psychotherapist Carl Rogers' core conditions for teaching: congruence (realness), acceptance and empathy. At its heart is the notion that students become increasingly trusting and open to learning and new experiences once they feel at a deep level that their subjective experience is both respected and progressively understood.