

# Teaching Tips: Engaging Students from Day One

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# What are our objectives?

- ✿ **Identify** and **evaluate** various characteristics of effective teaching
- ✿ **Apply** simple teaching techniques for increased student engagement
- ✿ **Analyze** classroom management scenarios to improve the learning environment

# ~Think/Pair/Share ~

☀ Please describe the **characteristics** of one of your favorite teachers whom you **learned** a lot from.

☀ What do you think are the most important characteristics of an **effective** teacher?



# Student Perspectives

--Three **Common** Themes --

1. Accessible and approachable
2. Believe in their students (instill confidence)
3. Coach, encourage and mentor their students

*Community College Week* and NISOD (National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development) Student Essay Contest (2008 – 2010)



# More Student Perspectives

Top 5 Characteristics of Outstanding College Teachers
1) Concerned if students understand material
2) Approachable
3) Knowledgeable
4) Organized
5) Intelligent

Lawler, Chen, and Venso (2007). *Student perspectives on teaching techniques and Outstanding Teachers*.  
Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Vol 7, No.2, 32-48.

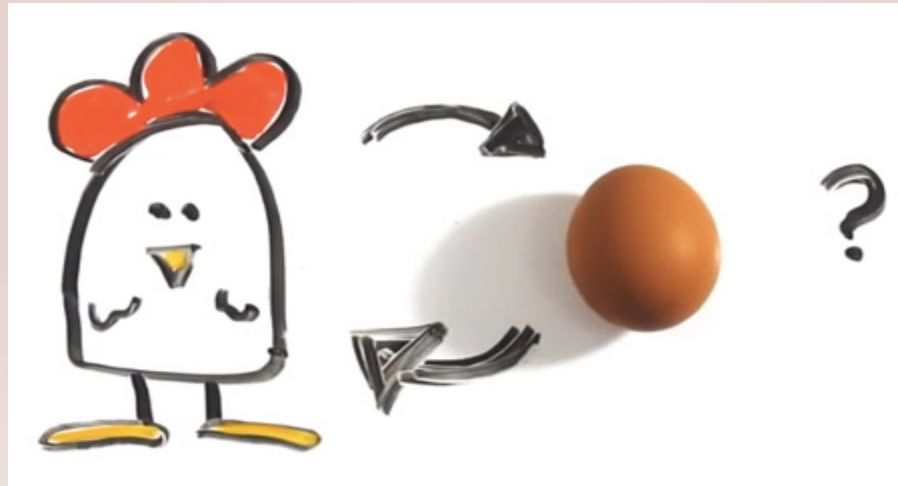
# And still some more

## Top 5 Most Important Things a Professor Can do to Make Lectures and Class Time More Engaging

- 1) Show enthusiasm for subject
- 2) Have good presentation skills
- 3) Explain complex concepts clearly
- 4) Provide comfortable/relaxed environment
- 5) Add personal stories/experiences/research

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So, what's more  
important ... the  
**intangible** or **tangible**?



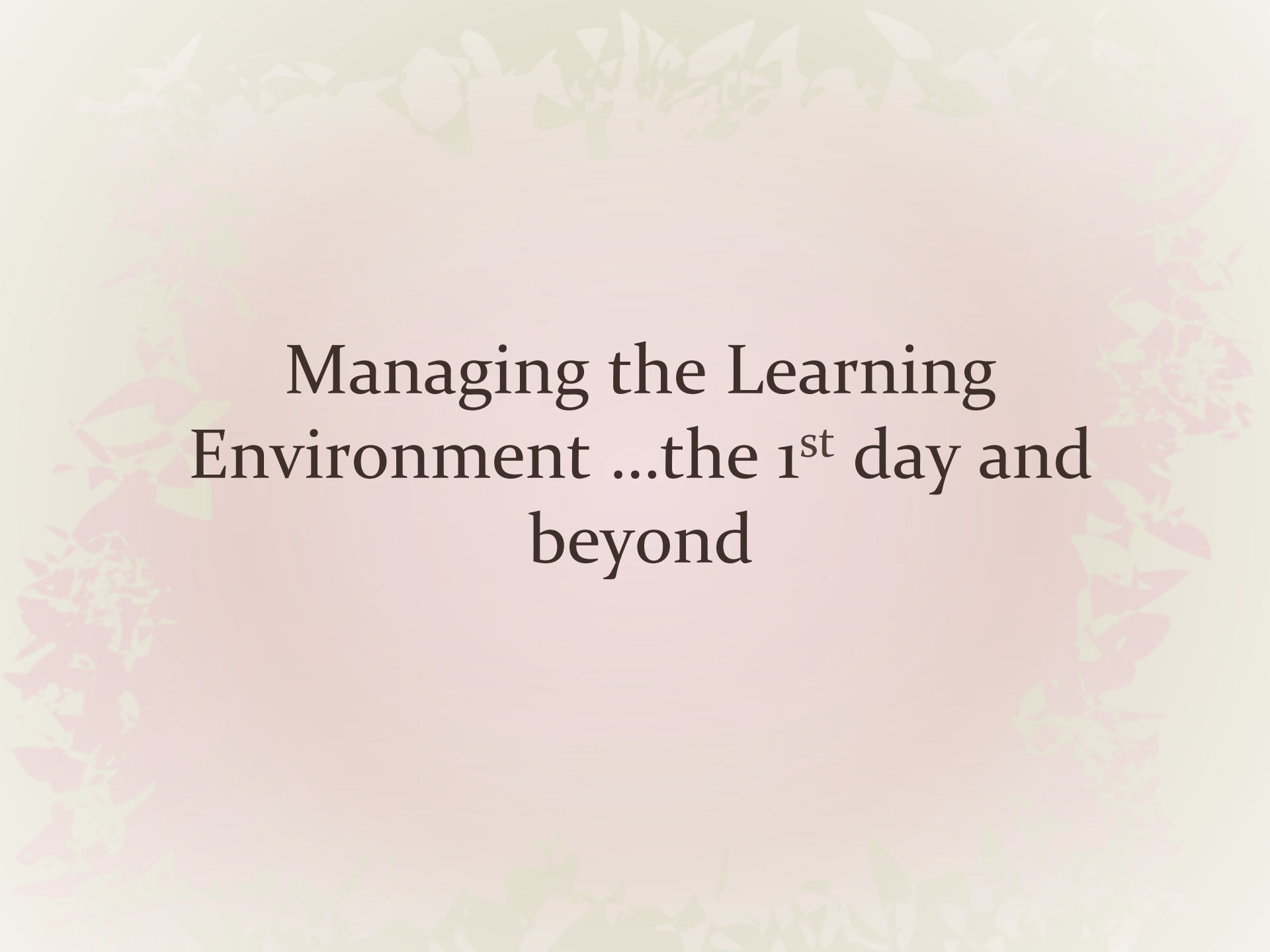
~Pick a Corner~





Anyone can become an outstanding teacher...





# Managing the Learning Environment ...the 1<sup>st</sup> day and beyond

# First Day Tips

- **Learn their names**– take attendance more than once; use humor
- **Low stakes ice breakers**– think/pair/share, volunteers
- **Teach a hook**– brief, something fascinating about your course
- **Share a personal story** –who are you?
- **Divide syllabus** –small groups

Barkley, E. (2017, January). *Thriving in academe; Reflections on helping students learn*. NEA Higher Education Advocate, VOL. 35, NO. 1, pp. 8-11.

# Teaching Tips for 1<sup>st</sup> Day & Beyond

## --MATCH--

1. **Motivation** –connect course to life
2. **Active Learning** –infuse small activities
3. **Task Optimally Challenging** –think Goldilocks – just right
4. **Community** –build one, from day one
5. **Holistic Learning** –teach the whole person

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This is all great, but how about  
**managing** the day to day?



Professor Dumbledore will be teaching ethics at Trump University in the spring. She distributes her syllabus on the first day and reviews policies. After three classes, she notices that students begin to arrive late and request extensions for homework—how can this culture be changed early on?

During Professor Voldemort's magical lectures, he notices that many students are not engaged –they are texting, staring into the abyss, or rendering tattoo designs in their notebooks. And to think he sat through Professor Capra's teaching tips workshop in January! What can he do?

Professor Slughorn makes an effort to elicit participation from her students. Despite these efforts, the same students raise their hands and when she cold calls on students, they utter the proverbial... 'I don't know.'  
Is this the way it will be?

Professors Severe and Sinister  
have something in common –a  
gaggle of students who chat,  
pantomime, and generally tune  
out during class. Could this be  
college?

# Did we achieve our objectives?

- ✿ **Identify** and **evaluate** various characteristics of effective teaching
- ✿ **Apply** simple teaching techniques for increased student engagement
- ✿ **Analyze** classroom management scenarios to improve the learning environment

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- What was your favorite thing you **learned** tonight?
  - What is your **muddiest** point?



For more easy does it tips...

