

Your First Class: Getting Off to a Great Start

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Objectives: This document will help you learn about...

- differentiating strategies for making your first class go well
- recognizing the value in setting the tone / classroom environment in your first class with students
- understanding the role of a TA / instructor in adding value to student learning

Pre-First Class Checklist

- Get advice!!!
 - Talk to the professor you are TA'ing for
 - Talk to fellow TAs
 - Talk to previous course TAs
- Review textbook / course notes / previous year's notes / labs
- Ask for the course syllabus
- Check out your classroom!!! – technology, temperature, layout, supplies, space / chairs
- Send welcome message
- Pack some pens, markers, chalk, etc.

Strategies for Dealing with Pre-First Class Nerves

- Dress comfortably
- Practice
- Talk to students before class
- Write out what you want to say
- Begin with some discussion questions

Your First Class Checklist

Logistics

- Handout:
 - Your name, Office number and hours, Contact info (phone number, email)
- Student Info sheet:
 - Name, Year, Option, Relevant courses taken, Career objectives (what do they want to do post-university), Questions / Concerns
- Arrive early – mingle, talk to students
- Start class on time
- Introduce:
 - Yourself
 - Course Expectations
 - Technology

