

Class Climate

- Give rewards for great questions or “A” answers in class. Rewards can be miniature candies or small squeeze balls – something that can be tossed without damage
- The first assignment is always a writing exercise where students respond to the question “Who am I?” We share it and get to know each other
- Take digital pictures of each student the first day of class. Use these pictures to learn each students’ names
- Establish an atmosphere of respect
- Students set the norms for the class (ex. cells, food, lateness, etc.)
- Compliment whatever possible – 1:1 (after class discussion) acknowledging them in class – eye contact
- Reinforce the importance of education and a degree
- Ask for volunteers to “take a risk” first day of class – reinforce that the faculty member will not do anything to “hurt” you. Once they have come forward – thank them for participating
- Allow them to pair with other students to increase comfort level
- One of the biggest things in terms of relationships with students is RESPECT for them – then they know they can come and tell me anything, share anything – and be accepted unconditionally (as long as it is not something reportable by law) – an open door policy
- I facilitate the process of all willing students exchanging phone numbers with all others in the class on the first day
- Be flexible. Alter teaching strategies based on the class chemistry
- Have students interview each other and then introduce each other to the class
- As a twist to the first idea, have students introduce a classmate but lie about them to see if others can differentiate the truth
- Pair off students based on the alphabetical order of their first names
- Use a bingo game based on possible student characteristics
- Arranging desks in a circle to facilitate discussions and encourage students to get to know one another
- Name tents will allow faculty and students to know each others names
- Discuss the learning process with them –have them discuss what and how they learn best and their weakest learning attributes in dyads
- Give students a “pep” talk