



PART 3—THE INSTRUCTOR

CONT'D...

Notes



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to view the video for
the section *The Instructor*
3.2, 3.3, 3.4.

3.2 Attitude

Don't leave your attitude to chance. Decide before you begin preparing your material that you're on a mission to change the lives of your students. Think about what you can do to serve and inspire them. Keep your attitude inspirational, kind, and respectful.

It's well known that the selfless service of a teacher has provided the inspiration that has encouraged many to greatness. Ask yourself, "What can I do to serve my student?"

If you're not there for your students, they'll know it; they can read your insincerity.

How do you want people to feel about the class? Do you want them to learn? Teach them. Do you want them to have fun? Give them something to enjoy. Expect a high level of professionalism and you'll receive it.

3.3 Dress

What you wear communicates a self portrait. If a picture is worth a thousand words, make sure this one tells the right story. We all like people who, on special occasions, dress up a little bit for us. It tells us they care.

Don't "dress down" or act to "fit in" with the students. You aren't their peer, you're their leader and you need to inspire them. Dressing properly puts you in a position of authority.

Dress Professionally

1. At a minimum, instructors should wear business casual clothes, such as a polo shirt with a collar, dress slacks, and shined leather shoes. Avoid wearing blue jeans, cut-offs or shorts, running shoes, or scuffed and dirty work boots. Shirts shouldn't have a logo, unless it's for your own company or school.
2. The next level of dress includes a dress shirt.
3. Level three includes a tie and possibly a sport coat.
4. A suit and tie places you at level four. If you've been hired to teach by an organization you should always dress in this manner.

Men. If you don't wear a white shirt, wear a color that looks good on you. If you keep adjusting your collar or pulling your pants up because they're too big, choose another outfit. Your audience will pick up on your comfort level, so it works to your advantage to feel good in what you're wearing.

When choosing your suit, keep the background color of your stage in mind, and choose a suit that will help you stand out. Consider having someone with good fashion sense help with your clothing decisions.

Women. Keep clothing, make-up, and accessories simple—nothing flashy or overdone. Avoid wearing jingling bracelets, loud prints, or shoes that draw the eye away from your face. Wear a fabric that doesn't wrinkle excessively. When choosing a suit or a blouse, keep the background color of your stage in mind. Choose colors that flatter and frame your face. Your goal should be to dress in a professional, classic manner so students can focus on the message and not on the outfit.

3.4 Empathy

Some instructors never really understand the challenges their students face. Often they're so busy talking about their own achievements or interests they miss the students' needs. You must look at the world through their perspective to understand their mindset. Find out what's happening in their lives; remember—they're evaluating you and your presentation from their perspective.

The best way to develop empathy with your students is to be available to talk with them before class, during breaks and lunch, and after class. Make it a practice to be the first one to enter the room and the last to leave.