



PART 3—THE INSTRUCTOR

3.9 Presence

“*Presence*” is something that the student *feels* about the instructor, often before he or she even appears. Great instructors have “presence” because they’re prepared. It silently assures students that *the instructor can handle anything*.

Take time to cultivate feelings of emotional closeness with your students—as if they had shared a special moment with you. Engulf students in the sudden awareness that something unusual is going to happen, and communicate with them at a high level of involvement and concern.

3.10 Take Control

Great instructors project a sense of purpose. They carry themselves well, their attitude is outward, and they’re aware of their surroundings. They visualize a successful presentation as they prepare. Great instructors are more concerned about the students’ needs than their own. Nothing is tentative; they have a sense of purpose, are decisive, and well prepared. They project a positive attitude of confidence, with sensitivity toward the students.

3.11 Teach

Great instructors *teach* rather than showing off their knowledge. Never expect your students to know something they haven’t been taught! Don’t ask them a question about material you haven’t covered—this is a sure-fire way to discourage them. Help them understand by presenting material in a positive way, bringing the subject to their level, and making learning fun and interesting.

Teach students what they need to know. Don’t waste time on useless technical points or go into a topic that’s more in-depth than necessary. If there are several different ways of solving a problem, concentrate on teaching them the easiest way to solve it. You can expose your students to the different methods that can be used, just don’t spend a lot of time on them.

Evaluate your instructional goals to be sure you’re teaching material that fits the class objectives and the students’ needs and current ability levels. Make learning fun for them.



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section *The Instructor*
3.9, 3.10, 3.11.

Notes

Don't teach your passion unless it's the topic of the class. It's easy for instructors to focus on a topic that's very important to them, but perhaps not essential to goals and objectives of the class. Don't give in to the temptation to over-teach something about which you're passionate.

Teach by using positive methods with a positive attitude. Don't concentrate on negative examples, such as pictures of "bad" installations. Doing so can backfire and lead your students into developing a negative attitude about their work environment and co-workers. Positive teaching will lead to positive attitudes.