

Empowerments for Student Learning

Exclusively for Adjuncts

Honoring active learning and supportive teaching environments in a changing paradigm of higher education

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The Power of Words

To build rapport, elicit cooperation, and reduce defensive responses instructors can implement the following actions with students.

Talk privately: Talking to students privately before or after class is an approach that will prompt mutual respect and produce positive instructor-student interaction.

Speak quietly: When addressing undesirable behaviors or deescalating situations, instructors should slightly lower the volume of their voices and speak in a normal, stable yet gentle tone.

Use I-statements: When instructors use I-statements, they own the experiences they are having with the students instead of making a personal judgment on the student's behaviors. For example, an instructor might say, "I didn't receive your assignment" instead of, "You didn't hand in your assignment."

Communicate during class: Avoid calling students out publicly. Instead, consider using a written note to address issues with an I-statement. A sticky note that addresses the issue can be discretely placed on the student's desk. For example, the note might read, "I'm concerned about your hearing, and the sound from the ear buds is distracting other students." Students will recognize the instructor's concern as well as his/her attempt to keep the communication private and will most likely repay the respect.

Source: Ameliagamel.hubpages.com

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