

Making the Most of the First Day of Class

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NEW BEGINNINGS TEACHING CONFERENCE

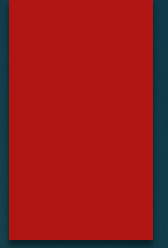
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Capture Their Attention

Today, you have their attention – use it to your advantage!

- ▶ Example 1 – from American Government
- ▶ Example 2 – from Classroom Assessment and Evaluation (thank you, Nelson Maylone)

Question Number 1



On what date did the Soviets launch the Sputnik satellite?



Question Number 2

On what date did the Soviets launch the Sputnik satellite?

- a. October 4, 1947
- b. October 4, 1957
- c. October 4, 1967
- d. October 4, 1977

Build Rapport with Students and Instructor

- ▶ Give students the chance to talk to each other – introduce each other, maybe a think-pair-share or groups
- ▶ Share something about yourself. Most of us would like to get to know our students; consider giving them the opportunity to get to know you
- ▶ Perhaps consider asking students to ask you questions about what they want to know about you (thanks, Sarah Ginsberg!)

Set a Pattern for the Course

- ▶ Get students speaking on Day 1 – if it becomes the norm for them to speak, that'll continue through the semester
- ▶ Keep them the full time. Dig in with class work. Vacation's over, kiddos! Time to get moving!
- ▶ Give students an assignment – small, ungraded, easy – but show them that preparing for next class is important.

Communicate that Student Success Matters to You

- ▶ Tell students how much you care about them succeeding, and what you will do to help them succeed:
 - ▶ Student hours
 - ▶ Review sessions
 - ▶ Supplemental instructors
- ▶ Students may be intimidated, but letting them know that you are on their side is important

Show Your Enthusiasm

If you feel enthusiastic, show it! Don't be afraid to show you are excited about what you teach, and who you teach.

If you don't feel enthusiastic:

“The key to success is sincerity. If you can fake that you've got it made.” – George Burns



Thanks for Coming!

▶ Questions/Comments?

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