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Fast Five with the TFSC

A Newsletter for First Year Faculty at the University of Arkansas

OCTOBER 2021 THEME: SUCCESSFUL CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

3 Quick Tips from the TFSC Co-Directors:

1. Smile, let your students know you are happy to see them and that you enjoy the time you spend with them exploring a subject you are excited about. (When wearing a mask in class you can say – I am smiling at you).
2. Write a plan on a post-it note that you can see during class so that you remember the activities you plan to do, and the order you will proceed through the class.
3. Assess your class after it's complete and make a short note about what worked and what didn't, so that you can make changes the next time you teach it.

4. An Experienced Professor's Best Tip:

Professor **Adnan Alrubaye** of Poultry Science is an Imhoff Teaching Award winner, a Fulbright Master Teacher Award winner, and the Outstanding Teaching and Student's Mentorship award winner:

“One of the most important tips I can share about successful class management is to stay organized and to use more technology. On average, I teach approximately 1,000 students per year and using technology has helped me stay organized and kept my students happy and energized. For instance, using the Apple iPad with Apple TV is extremely helpful in lecture delivery and keeping students engaged. Another tool is Acadly, an interactive tool to deliver classroom assessment like quizzes and it contains Zoom and LMS integration. Classroom technology tools helped keep my class organized, improved students' engagement, and increased the success rate of my students. I encourage my colleagues to explore the many tools available online to help them with their course delivery. If you have a question or need help, you can reach out to our TIPS team, a faculty colleague, or maybe attend a teaching with technology conference.”

5. The Take from a New to the U of A Professor:

Christopher Estep is an Associate Professor in Agricultural Education, Communications, and Technology. While he has been a professor for several years, he was recently awarded the New Faculty Commendation as a professor in the first two years at the University of Arkansas.

“In terms of organizing my courses, I try to keep the same general format across all of them. The three main components of any course are the introduction, the lesson, and the summary. I always start with an interest approach activity that gets students' attention and gets them thinking about the day's topic and activities. As part of the interest approach, I always lead it into the day's objectives. I put a slide with the learning objectives and walk students through what they should know or be able to do at the end of class. I then move into the lesson itself. The activities will vary depending upon the day's objectives, but can range from lecture, demonstration, questioning, discussion, cooperative learning, and individualized application. In a one-hour class, I try to have at least three distinct learning activities. At the end of class, I have some sort of summary activity where students can reflect on the day's learning—this can take the form of questioning, reviewing key points, having a group activity, etc. The very last thing after the summary is to display the day's objectives and discuss how we met each one.”