

The Five Tools to Promote Positive Professor-Student Rapport

1. *Seek feedback*

check your assumptions about student understanding,
seek student validation/feedback often, uses phrases like:

does this make sense?

can you see how this connects to x

how can I make this clearer to you?

promote a brief two-way discussion – even in large lecture halls

2. *Validate then respond*

create a new habit: first validate a student, then respond

use phrases like:

“interesting question” (even if you don’t think so)

“that is a common challenge”

“this can be a tough concept”

“many students are confused by this”

be mindful of the tone and demeanor in the classroom – when students feel supported in the classroom, they have more energy for learning...

avoid sarcasm, raised voices, veiled threats, ridicule, student embarrassment

3. *Written Expectations*

maintain high expectations that are consistent and predictable –

set a goal that expectations are written down for students

decide what is most important to you

...if a student is late for class,

...if a student misses a laboratory session...

describe both action and consequence.

4. *Be available*

go outside your comfort zone!

be accessible and responsive outside the classroom

encourage students to seek help from you or classmates or tutors to avoid frustration outside of the classroom,

set consistent office hours and

keep the door to the office open

consider offering incentives to students to visit your office

5. *Offer supporting materials*

acknowledge that some students may struggle and may benefit from a different presentation/perspective

supplemental resources are already created and published online

Youtube tutorials, www.academicearth.org

Worksheets

Practice problems

Khan Academy

Component 1: Perceptions of the Teacher	1 strongly disagree	2 disagree	3 neither agree nor disagree	4 agree	5 strongly agree
My professor encourages questions and comments from students.					
I dislike my professor's class. *					
My professor makes class enjoyable.					
I want to take other classes taught by my professor.					
My professor's body language says, "Don't bother me." *					
I really like to come to class.					
Component 2: Student Involvement					
My professor is compassionate.					
My professor is confident.					
My professor enjoys his or her job.					
My professor cares about students.					
My professor is enthusiastic.					
My professor is a role model.					
My professor wants to make a difference.					
My professor is receptive.					
My professor is reliable.					

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