**Effective Teaching**

It is difficult to define "effective teaching" -- people with completely different styles are equally effective. The one thing that we have learned in research in higher education, is that there is no one best way of teaching. Vogt (1984) related effective teaching to the ability to provide instruction to different students of different abilities while incorporating instructional objectives and assessing the effective learning mode of the students.

Effective Teaching involves

* Professional Knowledge and Skills
* Commitment and Motivation

**Effective Teachers**

Effective teachers demonstrate a deep understanding of the curriculum. They plan, teach, and assess to promote mastery for all students. Effective teachers provide high-quality instruction to increase student achievement for all students by providing researched-based instruction filled with technology integration. Effective teachers provide a respectful, positive, safe, and student-centered environment. They collaborate with their colleagues to analyze data and plan for effective and equitable instruction. Effective teachers continually reflect and evaluate the effects of his/her choices and actions. Effective teachers build positive and professional relationships with students, parents, and community members.

**Personal characteristics of effective teachers:**

1. **Preparedness**

The most effective teachers come to class each day ready to teach.

* It is easy to learn in their classes because they are ready for the day.
* They don’t waste instructional time. They start class on time. They teach for the entire class period.
* Time flies in their classes because students are engaged in learning—i.e., not bored, less likely to fall asleep.

1. **Positive Attitude**

The most effective teachers have optimistic attitudes about teaching and about students.

* They see the glass as half full (look on the positive side of every situation)
* Make themselves available to students
* Communicate with students about their progress
* Give praise and recognition
* Have strategies to help students act positively toward one another

1. **Hold High Expectations**

The most effective teachers set no limits on students and believe everyone can be successful.

* Hold the highest standards
* Consistently challenge their students to do their best
* Build students’ confidence and teach them to believe in themselves

1. **Creativity**

The most effective teachers are resourceful and inventive in how they teach their classes.

* Use technology effectively in the classroom
* Unique activities motivate the students towards laerning

1. **Fairness**

The most effective teachers handle students and grading fairly.

* Allow all students equal opportunities and privileges
* Provide clear requirements for the class
* Recognize that “fair” doesn’t necessarily mean treating everyone the same but means giving every student an opportunity to succeed
* Understand that not all students learn in the same way and at the same rate

1. **Display a Personal Touch**

The most effective teachers are approachable.

* Connect with students personally
* Share personal experiences with their classes
* Take personal interest in students and find out as much as possible about them
* Visit the students’ world (sit with them in the cafeteria; attend sporting events, plays, and other events outside normal school hours)

1. **Cultivate a Sense of Belonging**

The most effective teachers have a way of making students feel welcome and comfortable in their classrooms.

* Students repeatedly mentioned that they felt as though they belonged in classrooms taught by effective teachers.
* The students knew they had a good teacher who loved teaching and preferred it to other occupations.

1. **Compassionate**

The most effective teachers are concerned about students’ personal problems and can relate to them and their problems. Numerous stories established how the sensitivity and compassion of caring teachers affected them in profound and lasting ways.

1. **Have a Sense of Humor**

The most effective teachers do not take everything seriously and make learning fun.

* Use humor to break the ice in difficult situations
* Bring humor into the everyday classroom
* Laugh with the class (but not at the expense of any particular student)

1. **Respect Students**

The most effective teachers do not deliberately embarrass students. Teachers who give the highest respect, get the highest respect.

* Respect students’ privacy when returning test papers
* Speak to students in private concerning grades or conduct
* Show sensitivity to feelings and consistently avoid situations that unnecessarily embarrass students

1. **Forgiving**

The most effective teachers do not hold grudges.

* Forgive students for inappropriate behavior
* Habitually start each day with a clean slate
* Understand that a forgiving attitude is essential to reaching difficult students
* Understand that disruptive or antisocial behavior can quickly turn a teacher against a student, but that refusing to give up on difficult students can produce success

1. **Willingness to Admit Mistakes**

The most effective teachers are quick to admit being wrong.

* Apologize to mistakenly accused students educational
* Make adjustments when students point out errors in grading or test material that has not been assigned