

Do's and Don'ts for Teachers

We can't be good teachers by being dogmatic or dictatorial. Dogmatism represents a closed mind. Listen to the other person's point of view. You may learn a little bit yourself. By admitting that you don't know it all, you admit that you have an open mind, and you are on the road to maturity.

The person who is intellectually honest can afford to admit he doesn't know. Only a person with an inflated ego is afraid to admit he doesn't know everything about a given subject. But you have a responsibility after that [admission] to go out and find the answers.

As a teacher, be a good listener, don't talk too much. Listening is an art in itself. You have to learn how to follow before you can learn to lead. Never argue with students. Argument gets into personalities, and that's a very worthless thing to do. Redirect your questions.

Don't lecture too much. Never waste time on a negative approach. Why not take a positive approach? Be a responsible individual. Don't say you are going to teach a class unless you intend to be there. And remember that your students are going to appraise you critically. Earn the respect of your pupils, not only because you are a good teacher, but because you are a human being with qualities they would like to emulate. A sense of humor is important too.

GEORGE ROYAL,
Dean, New York.

What a teacher is and what motivates her in teaching are far more important than what or how she teaches. What a teacher is depends upon her own personality development—the value system she has established for herself, her ideals, her emphases, her attitudes, her manners, i.e., her techniques of human inter-relationship, and her pattern of love and hate; her motives—whether she is teaching because she loves children and wants to give, or hates children and wants to make them learn.

—KARL A. MENNINGER