Being a Teaching Assistant for the First Time

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Today’s outline

• Your Experience
• Outside Class
• Inside Class
• Introducing Yourself
• Icebreaker
• Rules and Expectations
• Talking about Goals
• Some Funny Facts of Being Teaching Assistant
• References
How was your experience being a teaching assistant for the first time?

• http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewlHN9SGuv0
Teaching is a good opportunity to learn
Outside Class

• Discuss responsibilities with the course supervisor;
• TAs are trained as researchers rather than teachers (DeCesare, 2003); hence the transition to accomplishing the TA responsibilities becomes a difficult task;
• Meet regularly with instructor for any clarification because he is a major source of support and information;
• Consult the instructor of the course about students requests;
• To feel confident you can attend class sessions to see the teaching style of the course instructor or observe your mentors or experienced TA;
• Identify effective teaching methods by observation;
• Do not be afraid to ask for advice from experienced person;
• Have plans and write them down;
Inside Class

• Dress like a teacher;
• Make eye contact;
• Being nervous is natural;
• Act confident even if you are not;
• Do not let students know it is your first time (be well prepared, talk and teach confidently);
• Do not be too much apologetic in your tone;
Inside Class

• Communicate with students learn their names (use name tags). It is great to greet everyone as individuals;
• Take your written plans to the class;
• Do not become friends or more with your students;
• Set the authority (do not be too comfortable with your students);
• No exceptions in rules;
• Don't make any comments that could be interpreted as offensive to someone's gender, race, culture, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or other sensitive topics.
Introduce yourself

*Check if instructor will introduce you

• Your name and how you expect students to call you;
• Where you are from (optional);
• What your role in the classroom will be and your duties;
• How long you will working with the class;
• Other teaching assistant working with you and the shared work;
• Do not use humor that may cross the borderlines;
• Make it short 😊
Icebreaker

• Ask them to introduce themselves and talk about the meaning and history of their names;
• Ask if they have studied this subject before;
• Ask what would they like to get out of this course;
• Ask if they can talk about examples related to the subject from the real world;
Rules and Expectations
*Consult the instructor before class about the course rules

• Basic rules
• Grading
• Attendance
• Cheating
• Absences
• Safety
Talk about goals

www.zazzle.com
Campus Resources Available to Graduate Teaching Assistants

• Teaching Support Center;
• Student Services and Office of Register;
• Student Development Center;
• School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies;
• Office of the Ombudsperson;
• Campus Police (Non-emergencies or inquiries);
• Student Health Services;
• The Student Success Center;
Some Funny Facts of Being Teaching Assistant
Keep trying
References


• Turman P.D. (2001). Central states outstanding teaching award winners: Learn to play the game:” recommendation for being successful as a graduate teaching assistant. Communication Studies, 52(4),266-212.


Any Questions ...?

Thank you