



What Learners Want in a Teacher

BACKGROUND

Learners across developmental stages and settings describe similar characteristics of “good” teachers.

Characteristics of “Good” Teachers

- Demonstrates competence (skills/knowledge) in a task or topic area
- Expresses enthusiasm for topic, teaching, patient care
“The most valuable asset to any university is the inspired teacher, the man possessed with that indefinable something which arouses the interest and enthusiasm of the student. Such men are rare in all colleges and all medical schools. How few teachers have the power of making what they say stick in the memory! And how such teachers are prized by the student!”
- Models professionalism
 - Connects with learner (fosters a working relationship, respects learner as a person)
 - Adopts non-judgmental approach to teaching
- Commits to learner success
 - Accounts for individual differences of learners (knowledge, past experiences, personality)
 - Engages learner (elicits their participation, input, thoughts)
 - Offers time to explain
 - Selects learning opportunities intentionally (sequencing)
- Provides clear, organized instruction
 - Communicates clearly (expectations, objectives, thought processes)
- Promotes assessment of learning
 - Solicit student self-assessment
 - Offers reinforcing and constructive feedback related to a target goal

WANT MORE?

[Teaching scripts for less experienced teachers](#)

[Feedback models and tips](#)

RESOURCES

[Goldie et al.](#), [Chen et al.](#), [Sutkin et al.](#), [Johan et al.](#), [Brink et al.](#), [Irby](#)