TEACHING ASSISTANT ORIENTATION
“APPROACHING THE 1ST DAY OF CLASS”

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CULTURE OF YOUR CLASSROOM

- Describe what you want your classroom to be like. (write down your thoughts to share w/ group)

  - **Examples**:
  - Interactive
  - Structured
  - Activity-driven
  - Friendly Atmosphere
THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS

Things to consider:

- The first day is exciting and anxiety-producing, for students and teacher.
- Handing out a syllabus and leaving does not convey that class time is valuable, nor is it constructive.
- When students know what to expect, they can direct their energy more productively.
- An important function of the first day is to provide the structure to manage expectations.
- Students come to class wanting to know what the course is all about and what kind of person the teacher is.
GOALS

- **Setting the Stage**
  - Ease in or grab attention, but be scholars

- **Breaking the Ice**
  - Introductions, Name games, Interviewing you

- **Question Posing**
  - Ask questions and then have them write 1 min. answer

- **Introducing the Syllabus**
  - Testing, Grading, and Fairness

- **Subject Matter**
  - If you have time, see if you introduce concepts
IN CONCLUSION

By the end of the first day, students will have:

- A sense of where they’re going and how they’ll get there.
- A feeling that the other members are not strangers, that you and they are forming a group in which it’s safe to participate.
- An awareness that you care about their learning and will be fair.
- An expectation that the class will be both valuable and fun.