

New to Inclusive Teaching? Tips to Consider...

With experience in teaching learners of all ages, both in-person & online, here are some recommendations to help you be a successful instructor. Keep in mind, students will either be visual or auditory learners, and come from various backgrounds and life experiences.

—Lisa A. Covington,
Cleveland State University

<p>Be Welcoming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⇒ Send a welcome e-mail before the first day of class & post a welcome message or announcement in Blackboard (or LMS @ your institution).⇒ Create & post in your LMS a very short welcome video. ⇒ When in the classroom, carry a small clear pouch with these items: individual packages of tissues, hand sanitizer, small stapler, two extra pens, three adhesive bandages, paper clips. Students have occasionally asked for these items throughout my teaching career. ⇒ Twice during the semester, send positive & affirmative emails to all students. Students like GIFs with positive messages.
<p>Be Thoughtful When Choosing Course Material</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⇒ Utilize Open Educational Resources (OER's) for textbooks.⇒ Obtain articles, related to your course, from the university library & upload them to your LMS.⇒ Make connections with course content, in your lectures, & pop culture.

<p style="text-align: center;">Be Engaging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Teach with enthusiasm so the students see that you are excited about the course content. ⇒ During your lecture, stop lecturing for a few minutes & ask for a volunteer to explain in their own words the point you just made. ⇒ Ask, towards the end of class, for two or three student volunteers to talk about an interesting point or something new that was brought up in class.
<p style="text-align: center;">Be Available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Respond to e-mails within 24-hours. ⇒ Allow a few minutes after class for students to come & talk with you. ⇒ Post drop-in hours & make sure all students know where your office is located.
<p style="text-align: center;">Be Open to Using Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ During class, ask the students to use their phones & look up, within two minutes, information related to a point in your lecture. ⇒ Once a week, show a short video related to course material. Make sure the closed caption option is on. Remember you have both visual & auditory learners in your class.
<p style="text-align: center;">Be Curious</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Attend faculty workshops on the topic of Inclusive Learning. ⇒ Read books on the topic of Inclusive Learning. ⇒ Talk with colleagues about Inclusive Learning methods.

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