

## Establishing Expectations for Working Together Upfront

**Shared by:** Wendy L. Yost, Recreation & Tourism Management

**Materials needed:** Handout, that includes your version of the example provided below. Feel free to borrow / adapt anything that I include in my example. The document has evolved greatly over the last five years of my using it.

**Learning challenge addressed/predictable outcome:** It is easier to refer back to stated expectations when they are violated, than to have to instill expectations after a violation has occurred. Providing students with tips for working effectively with you, at the start of the semester, gives them a sense of your teaching style and clearly articulates what works and what doesn't as you embark on your fifteen weeks together. Depending on what a professor chooses to include:

- Active engagement for better learning
- Improving public speaking skills
- Increase students' comfort with each other
- Help instructor understand what students don't understand and/or how prepared they are for class
- Creates a positive classroom environment – with instructor as facilitator/"guide on the side"
- Better learner outcomes
- Helps students to articulate their questions.

**Best used for:** This is suitable for all class settings.

**Learning objectives/skills fostered:** Trust, teamwork, partnership.

**What to do / how to do it:** At the beginning of the semester, in conjunction with my syllabus, I distribute a document called *Instructions for Working Effectively with Professor Yost* which I use to set the tone for the kind of classroom culture I seek to create with the students, beyond the information contained in the course syllabus. [Click here for sample syllabi language](#) you can adapt.