**Preparing for a Positive**

**First Day of Class: Five Terrific Tips**

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*The first day of class is, without a doubt, the most important day of your semester.*

*It sets the tone for the entire term.*

*You only have ONE CHANCE to make a good, strong initial impression.*

*Plan accordingly!*

**Five Terrific Tips for the First Day of Class**

1. Create a dynamic syllabus
2. Share your passion
3. Connect the dots
4. Give the class a voice
5. Communicate the rules of the road

1. Create a dynamic syllabus

* Work hard to create a DETAILED syllabus that reflects the breadth and depth of your class.
* Remember: Your syllabus is a “contract” between you and your students.
* Check out mine! On the CSUN Department of Journalism website.

2. Share your passion

* Be passionate about your teaching.
* If you aren’t passionate, don’t expect your students to be engaged.

3. Connect the dots

* Explain the relevance of your class, both in terms of career choices and requirements to complete a bachelor’s degree.
* Communicate why they should care about the subject.

4. Give the class a voice

* This can begin from the moment you first take role.
* Engage students through intense interaction. Create an “active” classroom.

5. Communicate the rules of the road

* Use the syllabus to help students understand the FIRST DAY what lies ahead, so there are NO surprises down the role.
* Don’t hesitate to lay down the ground rules EXPLICITLY.

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