

Bringing Passion to Teaching and Loving your Pedagogical Journey



- **What is passionate teaching?**
- **How can it impact your pedagogy and student experiences?**
- **How do you bring passion to the classroom and teaching activities that are a core element of your academic work?**

Academic passion can be hard to hide. We love our disciplines! Yet sometimes as instructors, we struggle to bring this passion into the classroom or find it difficult to translate love for our field, research, or creative work into teaching experiences.

Passion...

- is a state of positive emotion, inner motivation, and intrinsic drive that excites and brings joy to a given pursuit.
- in teaching is a beautiful experience that can elevate your instruction, bring tremendous satisfaction, and make each classroom and student engagement experience remarkably gratifying and positive.
- may even counteract the buildup of fatigue and job burnout!
- can also be contagious and an uplifting teaching mechanism for both teachers and students alike.

Four Steps to Passionate Teaching

Step One: Active Thinking

- Actively thinking about what brings joy and meaning to your work can play a major role in getting your inner passion front and center. It could be your research, the big questions that drive your scholarship, the creative outputs you tend to enjoy, or the joy and satisfaction student interaction brings to your life. Think about why you do what you do and what brings passion to your work!

Step Two: Connect Passion to Content

- It may not be the most conspicuous connection (or it could be!), but attempt to relate what you found in step one to your teaching. Are there linkages that make sense? Does it relate to the content? Are there connections you can draw? Do they speak to each other?

Step Three: Bring It to the Classroom

- Let your passion speak; tell students your story. Tell them why you do what you do, and what drives your daily work cycles. Get them interested in your research. Bring your research, your community engagement, and the questions you mull over into your classes. Let YOUR passion come through.

Step Four: Add Your Personal Experience

- When you tell your story, encourage the students to do so as well. This shared story-telling and narrative-sharing builds deep connections for students! In turn, they spark your inner motivation and inspire you to go above and beyond as their teacher.



Through a process known as emotional contagion, teacher passion may “infect” students who can begin to ride the waves of passionate pedagogy in their own learning, which could translate into overall more satisfying, meaningful, and impactful outcomes for their educational journeys.

References:

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