Create an Environment Where You MOTIVATE, ENGAGE, and RESPOND

MOTIVATE
Motivation is critical for learning and essential for effective teaching.

SHOW
- Present the subject as interesting, relevant, valuable to learn, and fun
- Although the subject is challenging, all students can master it with effort
- Let students know you care about them successfully learning the material

REMEMBER
- Most students do not have the benefit of your experience and perspective, so be sure to convey why you are drawn to this subject
- Recognize that students think differently than you
- Scare tactics, such as saying the subject is really difficult or that many students will fail, are demotivating to many students.

Approach Teaching as a Challenging Subject That Can Be Mastered
- Understand how people learn and what processes facilitate learning
- Use teaching practices that have been proven to be effective
- Don’t be afraid to request support and to use what works.

ENGAGE
Think of yourself as a “coach of thinking” rather than a “dispenser of information.”

Lay out the Framework for What You Want Students to Learn

SHOW
- Rather than present just the facts, show how to apply the knowledge
- Teach students how to study effectively—these are skills that can be learned but are rarely taught
- Demonstrate what is required for conceptual mastery and retention

REMEMBER
- Understanding how to apply knowledge is critical to mastering the subject
- Make time for student practice with relevant, real-world problems

SHOW
- Use detailed, constructive feedback (“formative assessment”) to help students improve
- Show students where or why they have made a mistake

REMEMBER
- For most students, grades define the expectations and what is important in a course
- Give points for what you value (e.g., homework, reading, in-class participation, quizzes, and pre-tests)

The ability to teach effectively is not innate—it can be learned much like a scholarly discipline.