

Teacher Types

Six Common Types

The teachers types

- ◆ The "best friend"
- ◆ The "rules-aholic"
- ◆ The "mom" or "dad"
- ◆ The "popular professor"
- ◆ The "lecturer"
- ◆ The "laid back" instructor

The “best friend”

- + He’s like a standup comedian, making everyone giggle. You actually have fun when you learn, and you don’t really mind doing homework for this class.
- Even you best friend had bad days-or a bad week. If you show up at this class expecting to be entertained and find this normally cool teacher in a crabby mood, you might take it personally.

The “best friend” (cont.)

TIPS FOR DEALING

- ◆ Just because you feel like this teachers a friend, don't think you can coast by with out doing the work. A teacher is a teacher, and all teachers expect you to learn.

The “rules-aholic”

- + She has the same rules for everybody, so you never feel like she’s picking favorites.
- This teacher will not accept homework unless it’s done a certain way—say, in blue ink or on a computer. Also, being late for class might mean detention, even if you were consoling a friend who didn’t make the soccer team.

The “rules-aholic” (cont.)

TIPS FOR DEALING

- ◆ Never ask this teacher to bend the rules for you. If she changes the rules for you, then everyone in the class will expect the same treatment. The rules are designed for a reason—whether to teach you discipline or to prepare for the gasp, real world—so follow instructions extra closely and keep detailed notes when you write down homework assignments.

The “mom” or “dad”

- + Every comment somebody makes in class is “brilliant” or “right” or “excellent.” With all this positive feedback, you’ll be eager to participate in class.
- This type of teacher can be emotional, and he could be extremely disappointed in you if you don’t turn in your homework on time or if you perform poorly on a test.

The “mom” or “dad” (cont.)

◆ TIPS FOR DEALING

- ◆ If you’re struggling in class or forget an assignment, be sure to talk to the teacher after class—it will show him that you really care about your performance.

The “popular professor”

- + Could she look any cooler? This is the teacher that half the class will have a crush on. She dresses in hip clothes and uses the occasional slang word. You would love to hang out with her on the weekend.
- Sometimes it seems like this teacher picks favorites, which can make the left-out students feel a little jealous. Also, if the teacher appears to favor particular students and you're not one of those students, it may make you a little nervous about approaching her for help after class.

The “popular professor” (cont.)

◆ TIPS FOR DEALING

- ◆ If you feel shy around her, remind yourself that she’s a teacher, not a movie star. Her reason for being there is to help you learn, so don’t be afraid to ask for more instruction.

The “lecturer”

- + This teacher is so into lecturing that he won't notice you passing notes and chatting with your friends—or doing last night's homework for your next class.
- He also might not notice that 99.9 percent of the class doesn't have a clue what he's lecturing about. You may end up having to relearn all the material—and wasting a lot of valuable study time—before the test.

The “lecturer” (cont.)

◆ TIPS FOR DEALING

- ◆ Raise your hand and ask a lot of questions. If you don't understand the answer your teacher gives, raise your hand and ask again. Not only does it help you understand the material, but it shows him that you're really trying to learn, which might make him reconsider his teaching style a bit.

The “laid back” instructor

- + She doesn't appear to like standing up in front of the class to teach, so she'll let you have a lot of “study time” and break you up into study groups often, which could help you get to know some new, cool people in your class
- It's easy to view this kind of class as a social period instead of an actual class—but that kind of thinking can come back to haunt you later on in the year. Just because the teacher doesn't write down every single word on the blackboard doesn't mean she won't test you on the material.

The “laid back” instructor (cont.)

◆ TIPS FOR DEALING

- ◆ Try to use at least half of your in-class study time to go over assigned reading. And when you're in study groups, review instead of chatting.