



# ISU NEW TEACHER CONFERENCE

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Building Relationships and Boundaries

# Background

- Grew up in Ottawa, small town
- Student taught in Seneca, Illinois
- Graduated from ISU in December 2012
  - Semester maternity leave coverage at Seneca
- Finished 2<sup>nd</sup> full year of teaching
  - Clinton High School
- Strengths
  - Classroom management/building relationships

# 1. Be yourself; Be consistent; Be honest

- Be yourself to an extent
- Let them know who you are and how you run your show from day one
  - Snapchatters not welcome
  - Example: “the stare”; “bad speller”; “sarcasm”; “I Know What You Did In High School”
- Don’t let CERTAIN students off with a warning and punish others
- Be fair, consistent
  - Example: “the Johnny come lately-ies”

## 2. Get to know your students...and let them know you...to an extent (don't over share)

- Ask them questions and remember their answers
- Attend school functions of all sorts
  - I always volunteer to take tickets, work concessions, etc. (that way I get paid while engaging in their interests)
- For English, journals and reflection pieces are the best ways I get to know my students.
- I often discuss shared interests with my students. (mainly music, books, shopping tips)

# Continued...

- Day 1 or 2:
- Tell me about yourself paragraph:
  - 1. Write about the ways you like to learn best or the ways you feel you retain the most information.
  - 2. Tell me anything you think I need to know about you in order for you to be successful in this class.
- Note: I give this at the end of the period after I have told them all of my personality quirks.
- This is two-fold:
  - Gives me a chance to see where they are at with their writing
  - I learn about them as students

### 3. Foster a mutual respect

- They are young adults.  
(Even if they don't act like it).
- If I wish for respect, I must first give respect.
- Respond to their work
- Pick your battles
- Don't engage in argument
- Let them know you care

## 4. Build the relationship and the boundaries simultaneously

- Before going “nuclear,” try hearing his or her side of the story.
- Talk to administration, but also to the student
- Example: “the hidden note”; “the one-liner”

# Benefits

- High scores in domain 2 😊
- More learning/less time wasted with discipline issues
- A welcoming classroom
- Safe and comfortable learning environment
- Making a difference (maybe)



# Misconceptions/disadvantages

- Because you have a good relationship with your students, you're trying to be the “cool, young” teacher.
- You're trying to be their friend.
- You aren't spending enough time teaching.
- If boundaries aren't established, you will lose control of your classroom and will most likely not be able to regain it.
  - Example

# Discussion

1. With the people sitting around you, discuss the ways in which having a good relationship with your students will help your classroom management.
2. How will you get to know your students next year?
3. What will you tell them about yourself?
4. What are some of the ways you will establish boundaries right away?
5. What will you mention about how you run your show?



## Questions? AND a BIG thank you!

Thanks for being patient with me as I am a first time presenter. I truly hope this helped you or put you more at ease for the upcoming school year.