

When English is your second language

- Be honest about your English, but never apologize for it.
- Create an environment in which students feel comfortable asking you to repeat or rephrase what you have said when they don't understand you.
- Speak slowly

Benefits of Building Rapport with your Students

- Mitigates TA's and students' fears about your English abilities
- Students will feel more comfortable asking you to repeat yourself
- Students will be more willing to participate and ask questions.

But, how do I do it??

- Tell your students about yourself and where you are from.
- Learn your students' names.
- Talk with students before and after class. Get to know something about them.

Videos about how to manage conflict in the classroom:

<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/conflict/index.html>

Prevention

- Clarify expectations
- Have a clear grading policy
- Treat all students fairly
- Present to students as "How to Succeed in This Course"

Awkward Situations in the Classroom

- Sometimes students will engage in rude or inappropriate behavior
 - Sleeping or texting during class
 - Asking very personal questions
- Remember that you are the authority figure
- Note improper behavior and expect the student to fix it.

General Issues for All TAs and Professors

- Students do not prepare for class
- Students are inattentive or reluctant to participate
- One or two students participate too much
- Students cheat or plagiarize
- Controversial discussions become heated debates and some students are alienated

Controversy

- Teaching Controversial Issues

<http://cfe.unc.edu/pdfs/FYC21.pdf>

- Discussing Controversial Topics in the Classroom

<http://www.crlt.umich.edu/tstrategies/tsd>

- Managing Hot Moments in the Classroom

<http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/html/icb.topic58474/hotmoments.html>

Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning: <http://kaneb.nd.edu/>