

15 QUICK WAYS TO *Build Rapport with Students*

1. Always fist-bump, high five, or give (hand) hugs to your students (depending on your relationship with them). Appropriate physical contact is essential with building rapport.
2. Find something you like about every student you work with and continue to compliment them on those things.
3. Balance being a teacher/educator and a friend/mentor/good parent figure. Students want to talk to adults who they can relate with and be heard.
4. Do your best to understand the personal, social, emotional, financial, family, and other challenges your students are going through.
5. Learn and call students by their names as often as possible.
6. Remember little facts about your students and plug them into conversation. Learn about their interests, hobbies, and goals.
7. Learn their culture/lingo, but don't overdo it. Being relevant is important to them.
8. Be authentic. Don't try too hard to fit into their culture but make an effort to do so. If you don't know, you can ask them or do a little Google research.
9. Use relevant personal, funny, and embarrassing stories. Anytime you can incorporate slightly embarrassing/vulnerable stories or laugh at past challenges you had growing up, the better rapport you will build with them!
10. Chat with your students about their lives outside of class time.
11. Interact more, lecture less.
12. Praise and acknowledge your students more.
13. Treat students as an equal. No human is better than any other despite age, title, income, gender, race, etc.
14. Mindfully joke around with your students in your own authentic way. Avoid topics that may trigger insecurities such as: weight, body image, grades, income, family, etc.
15. Relate what you're teaching as much as possible with your student's personal lives.

Questions? Comments?

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