

The desired educator's mentality, disposition, attribute, or attitude....

1. **Enthused**—whether in the classroom, on the internet, or in the field, effective educators are enthused about their subject material. If we, the professorate, don't have deep passion and/or exude enthusiasm about our material, how can we ever expect the students to feel any excitement about learning the material. If it's not exciting now, we need to revisit why we chose to become experts in our fields of academic discipline and why we chose to share that knowledge in a college venue. Sharing recent research or helping students change the way they look at things needs to be exciting. We should be enthused and we should demonstrate it! Sometimes using humorous anecdotes can be an effective method to excite students about the material—without losing decorum.

2. **Energizing**—effective educators realize that all learning is self-learning. Knowing that you can't learn anything for anyone, the most effective educators are those who effectively assist students in their learning process. Excellence in teaching is discovering the most effective ways to facilitate student learning. The best educators learn how to energize their students by helping them discover and hone their best learning strategies. Students have to be convinced that the subject material is meaningful in their lives, that they should care about learning the material. While Dr. Ken Bain was here, he asked the faculty how to get their students to care about learning the subject material. It was decided that this is likely best done by showing their students the relevancy of the subject material which should activate their care to learn it.

3. **Engaging**—helping students connect to the subject material is to engage them in the learning process. Effective teachers experiment with various delivery techniques to discover what delivery method[s] are best for their personalities. There are as many excellent teaching techniques as there are different personalities. While it is true that some people are born with a teaching mentality or aptitude, excellence in teaching can be learned if one wants to badly enough. Whether the engaged student is involved a series of case studies, working groups, the internet, 'clickers,' or Socratic delivery, the teacher must involve the student in the learning process. I have learned that the best delivery strategy for me is to treat my classroom of students like a large, friendly discussion [I call it the principle discussant technique] constantly engaging them in questions and answers.

4. **Empowering**—this E of effective education promotes student self-actualization in the learning process. Students need to have a sense of power or control over their own learning and empowerment toward success. They need to know the many different ways the college experience is different from high school, especially how to read a college textbook, take effective and efficient notes, and how to manage wisely their self-controlled time. Empowerment includes informing the incoming freshmen of invaluable campus resources created for their discerning usage, i.e., the math tutorial, the writing lab, the Academic Resource center to name a few. They need to be reminded that it's their personal effort that is reflected in their grades.

5. **Endorsing**—the most effective educators have an abiding, genuine concern for the learning of their students which is readily seen by the structure of the course and by the mentality of the instruction. The endorsement of the student's effort is clearly evident in a concisely constructed course that clearly articulates every expectation of the student. Teachers need to constantly be the 'student advocate' empathetically listening to complaints—especially the combined complaints—of their students. Endorsing the student's effort is to have a authentic respect, compassionate caring, and genuine concern for their welfare.

When one considers the attributes, dispositions, or attitudes of excellent educators, they have these mentalities in common:

#### Enthusied

- impassioned about our academic discipline
- sharing truths may change the way students look at things the rest of their lives
- display excitement in the classroom—not entertainment, excitement

#### Energizing

- effective educators know all learning is self learning
- help them discover their best learning strategies and employ them in college
- best way to energize—show relevance of the subject material so they care to learn

#### Engaging

- students must be actively involved in the learning process
- effective course delivery can be learned—some just born with it
- case studies, working groups, the internet, iclickers—principal discussant technique

#### Empowering

- students need to have a sense of power or control in their learning [self actualization]
- first-year students need to know how college differs from high school
- math tutorial center, writing center, the Academic Resource center, etc

#### Endorsing

- effective teachers have an abiding, genuine concern for their students
- an approachable demeanor in the classroom or wherever
- be the consummate student advocate always displaying respect, caring, and concern

....spend time pondering, envisioning, enabling, and employing these E's of effective educators...