



Students want to know who you are and the answers to these seven questions.

Douglas Brooks, Miami University of Ohio, discovered that students want to know seven things right away on the first day of school.

1. Am I in the right room?
2. Where am I supposed to sit?
3. What are the rules in this class?
4. What will I be doing?
5. How will I be graded?
6. Who is the teacher as a person?
7. Will my teacher treat me fairly?

He also discovered that the high achieving students are more concerned with these two questions:

4. What will I be doing?
5. How will I be graded?

The students who are most at-risk and need a safe and orderly environment are more concerned with these two questions:

6. Who is the teacher as a person?
7. Will my teacher treat me fairly?

Finding the correct room on the first day of school can be one of the most frightening experiences for a student. There is nothing more embarrassing than to discover that you are in the wrong room, already seated, after class has begun because no one was at the door to confirm and greet each student.

A 13-year-old student was asked, "What's the most frightening thing about the first day of school?" After thinking for a moment, he said, "Two things—having the teacher mispronounce your name, and walking into the wrong classroom."

Many teachers create PowerPoint presentations that answer the seven questions for their students. Some teachers create tri-folds with much of the information. No matter the method, set your students' minds at ease by sharing with them the answers to these questions on the first day of school.