



During the latter 20 years of my university teaching career, I delivered a considerable number of teacher-training presentations, seminars, and conference keynotes to high school teachers, university professors, principals, and deans in countries as diverse as Argentina, China, India, Peru, Taiwan, and Japan. And although the instructional content varied according to the fields of the educators and the levels of students they taught, I typically shared most or all of the following list, which my research and others' research had found to characterize the very best teachers, who successfully achieved the most impressive results.

My purpose for listing them here is to inspire teaching professionals to aim for the highest teaching expertise possible since their influence on their students has enormous potential for radically improving the quality of human life for everyone in every nation.

Profile of the Best Teaching: The very best teachers and professors, who frequently attain the most impressive results from their educational efforts, typically do the following:

1. They genuinely love their students in pure, powerful, and unconditionally generous ways.
2. They treat their students as adults, friends, and partners in a mutual pursuit of learning.
3. They inspire their students with admirable values and behavior, both inside the classroom and out, i.e., they teach from every aspect of their life, 24 hours a day, everyday.
4. They ignite a passion for learning through their own passions and educational pursuits.
5. They genuinely value student backgrounds, opinions, experiences, preferences, and worldviews because they are confident that all of these can be skillfully leveraged for more effective learning while respecting each student's identity at the same time.
6. They establish clear and reasonable learning goals, and communicate these to their students, along with the rationale for them.
7. They know which learning activities will be the most effective for their particular students for the specific skills or knowledge they intend for their students to learn.
8. They assign challenging, but interesting, homework that enables students to learn in the shortest time possible so that their evenings and weekends can be freer for other important pursuits.
9. They focus more on creative problem-solving than memorization, with the goal to solve real problems in the world rather than to speculate with imaginary scenarios and imaginary solutions.
10. They never waste precious class time or student attention on trivial teacher talk, unproductive classroom discussions, or time-wasting busywork.
11. They prepare well for their lectures and learning activities in advance so that these run smoothly and efficiently.
12. They relate their course content with that in other courses, as well as with real life, in order to help students recognize how everything is deeply interconnected.
13. They motivate their students to grow beyond their own expectations, and they surprise them with levels of accomplishment that students did not know they could achieve.
14. They encourage their students to pursue true and reliable understandings of reality in their studies and research, no matter how contrary their findings may be to what is currently popular and politically correct.
15. And according to their religious beliefs, they may consider their students to be gifts from God, whom they must mature and pray for as long as God gives them the opportunity to shepherd them.

If you wish to help students attain the best possible results from their academic efforts, then I encourage you to become the best possible educator you can be. Life is too short, and the lives of your students are too precious, for you to do otherwise.