Harry Greene’s 7 Rules of Engagement for Teaching

1. Give the students a reason to care
   • It is your obligation as a teacher to convince the students to give you the time of day
   • Why is the topic of the class interesting and important?

2. Give the students a reason to believe in you
   • Don’t presume that the students automatically respect or trust you to know what you’re talking about
   • Talk about yourself—very briefly; provide information that shows that you are a real person, that you’ve had an interesting life, have a dog or whatever, that you struggled as an undergraduate—things that allow them to see you as a real person that they can relate to

3. Figure out where your audience is and meet them there (this is also a prime rule of therapy)
   • Begin with an accurate notion of where your students are in terms of knowledge
   • Meet your students there, connect, and move forward from there

4. Pose interesting questions, including some that you don’t know the answer to

5. There are no stupid questions
   • Teach so that class is always asking questions and wanting to know new things
   • Some questions you will pose directly or in the material you present; some are questions that they raise as a result of what they are learning

6. Purposely pose ambiguous questions
   • Use to generate discussion and even disagreement

7. The inverse talking rule
   • If you are teaching in a situation in which student discussion is encouraged, the more one talks and asserts one’s expertise, the less the students will talk
   • You must learn to bite your tongue and let the students do as much of the talking as possible and only intervene when necessary
   • This rule applies especially within a seminar context

Also From Harry:  *Walkin’ and Talkin’ the Tree of Life: Why and How to Teach About Biodiversity* 

YouTube:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_C6e6rHYqM