
Strategies to Develop Rapport with students and Build a Positive Classroom Environment

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What is Rapport?



Rapport

- In general, rapport, a social and psychological phenomenon, is taken as the ability of an individual to relate to others in a way that creates a level of trust and understanding.
- In education, is the relationship that the learners have with the teachers and vice versa.
- Rapport is the ability to create trust between people.



The importance of Building Rapport

- Have positive effects on the classroom environment.
- It can minimize anxiety.
- Students will be able to express their opinions without fear.
- Students ask questions with ease.
- Increase student participation.
- Encourage students to learning and more interacting with each other.
- Teachers will be able to teach more interesting topics for their students.
- Improves classroom motivation.

A recent study conducted by (Brandi Frisby and Mathew Martin) that evaluated the importance of instructor-student rapport.

The purpose of their study was to develop a deeper understanding of how interpersonal relationships in the classroom impacted learning.

The study involved **233 students** from across an undergraduate pool at an American university. Of the 233 participants ranging in **age from (19-29)**, (125) were men, (108) were women and they were all a mix between freshman and seniors.

The study's results indicated that perceived rapport with instructors is **positively** related to classroom **connectedness, participation, and overall student learning.**

Strategies of Building Rapport

1 - Getting to Know Your Students:

- Remember students' name.
- Recognize students' diverse and different backgrounds, includes (culture, interests, needs, skills and personality)

2. Let Students Get to Know You

- Teachers should make an effort to let their students get to know them.
- Tell students a little about yourself, academic, work background, hobbies and interests.



3. Listening to Students

- Listen to students very well when they have problems.
- We also need to listen to the students' comments on how they are getting.
- If we just go on teaching the same thing day after day without being aware of our students' reactions, it will become more and more difficult to maintain the rapport that is so important for successful classes.



4- Respecting students

- Teachers should be able to correct student without offending them.
- Students have different learning styles and intelligences. So, they have different preferences when it comes to being corrected.
- Whichever method of correction we choose, and Whoever we are working with, students need to know that we are treating them with respect.

5. Being even – handed

- Students will generally respect teachers who show impartiality and do their best to reach all the students in a group rather than just concentrating on the ones who ‘always put their hands up’
- **Treating all students equally not only helps to establish and maintain rapport, but is also mark of professionalism.**

How to maintain rapport throughout the semester?

- ❖ Plan well for your class.
- ❖ Create interesting lectures and class presentations.
- ❖ Promote class discussion.
- ❖ Be accessible/approachable out of class.
- ❖ Arrive to class early and stay late-chat with your students.
- ❖ Be enthusiastic about teaching your subject matter.
- ❖ Be fair in grading policies.
- ❖ Be encourage/express interest in students' progress.
- ❖ Be pleasant in class/try to show your best personality.

Conclusion

Good rapport between teachers and students makes students motivated and they can participate in teaching-learning activities actively, comfortably and in friendly environment. Therefore, it can be inferred that there is a significant role of rapport in learners' learning performances. Teachers should know their students individually, share information comfortable for interaction, respect students' opinion, and welcome the questions raised by the students happily. It is not appropriate to show authoritative either in the classroom or out of the class. In short, the students want their teachers to show positive attitudes towards to enhance their learning performances.