



## 20 Observable Characteristics of Effective Teaching



DID YOU  
KNOW



### How many are you applying?

Excerpted from [TeachThought](#) and the University of Dayton

Whether you're a substitute teacher, a retired teacher, or a permanent classroom teacher, the challenge remains the same—you are in the classroom to further student achievement. Recent research indicates that effective teachers share these common characteristics.

1. Begins class promptly and in a well-organized way.
2. Treats students with respect and caring.
3. Provides the significance/importance of information to be learned.
4. Provides clear explanations. Holds attention and respect of students....practices effective classroom management.
5. Uses active, hands-on student learning.
6. Varies his/her instructional techniques.
7. Provides clear, specific expectations for assignments.
8. Provides frequent and immediate feedback to students on their performance.
9. Praises student answers and uses probing questions to clarify/elaborate answers.
10. Provides many concrete, real-life, practical examples.
11. Draws inferences from examples/models....and uses analogies.
12. Creates a class environment which is comfortable for students....allows students to speak freely.
13. Teaches at an appropriately fast pace, stopping to check student understanding and engagement.
14. Communicates at the level of all students in class.
15. Has a sense of humor!
16. Uses nonverbal behavior, such as gestures, walking around, and eye contact to reinforce his/her comments.
17. Presents him/herself in class as "real people."
18. Focuses on the class objective and does not let class get sidetracked.
19. Uses feedback from students (and others) to assess and improve teaching.
20. Reflects on own teaching to improve it.