

Unrealistic expectations exercise

Lucy McDonald has an exercise to help students discover and begin to correct their consumer mentality. She solicited a list of expectations from her students and asked her colleagues to do the same. Instructors have used this list as a small group exercise on the first day of class.

Here is how it works. Students are divided into groups of four, given the list of expectations followed by two blank columns. In the first column, students are asked to write why the expectation are unrealistic; in the second column they are asked to replace the unrealistic expectation with a more realistic one. The small group discussion is followed by a whole class discussion of realistic expectations for the class.

The unrealistic expectations are:

1. The instructor should remember that you were absent and tell you what you missed.
2. During class the instructor answers all your personal questions, i.e., "Why did I get this marked wrong on my quiz?" "What's my grade for this class?"
3. The instructor will appreciate your asking, "Are we doing anything important today?"
4. Telling the instructor, "I don't understand **anything** in the book," will elicit a helpful response.
5. The instructor will repeat a lecture for you privately.
6. The instructor will automatically bring you handouts for any days you missed.
7. The instructor should readily accept your excuses for turning in late assignments.
8. The instructor will automatically tolerate you coming late to class.
9. The instructor will not care if you leave class early.
10. You may talk to classmates during a lecture.

11. You may sleep or do homework during class.
12. You may pack up your book, pens, etc. before the end of class.
13. The instructor should excuse you for being unprepared for class because you didn't know the assignment.
14. The instructor will include all the major points of the textbook in his/her lecture so you don't have to read it.
15. In a discussion, the instructor expects you to be an observer rather than a participant.
16. It is the responsibility of the instructor to bring a stapler to class for students to use when they turn in assignments.
17. Telling your instructor that you 'tried hard' on an assignment will result in a higher grade.