

Students As Allies:
Teacher Effective/Ineffective Qualities

The following information was derived from a sample size of 300 students, comprising of all the health classes and 2 separate 9th grade classes. All the students were asked, "Name 5-7 effective/ineffective qualities teacher posses. What does that look like specifically in behavior and/or actions in the classroom? How does that quality impact your learning in the classroom? The information was analyzed by a small committee comprised of three students and two teachers. The following information is for reflective purposes only. As you read through the information our intention is for teachers to observe your effective qualities and ineffective qualities within your teaching practice. Through your own analysis and reflection, this can be an opportunity for fine-tuning your unique approach to teaching.

Effective Qualities:

Funny/relatable/engaging:

"Divert from the lesson at moments because students get a break and teachers can interact more with them."

"Look in our eyes when lecturing."

"When teachers incorporate in class discussions and connects what we learning to a broader more modern subject that helps the students really understand what they are trying to teach."

Patient/flexible:

"It feels good to know teachers are there to help and not just rush you along to graduation."

"Willing to go back to help a certain student learn a concept, especially after failing a test."

"Explain step by step the process."

Organized:

"Post notes on schoology."

"Get material back as soon as possible."

"When a teacher goes over the test and/or quiz thoroughly beforehand."

"It is good for a teacher to be clear. Many teachers don't tell you what you need to know beforehand. Teachers should verbally tell their classes if something is due or if a test is next class instead of relying on schoology or facebook. Technology is already a distraction and I would like it more if teachers talked to us and let us know."

"When teachers teach and give 10 min. to discuss what they just learned."

"When teachers do what they say they will do in the syllabus allows for a more predictable and comfortable class."

Enthusiastic: Passionate/charismatic/motivating:

"Pushing students to attempt new experiences and helping them grow not only as a scholar but as a human being."

"By involving the students in the process, it is entertaining and causes us to pay more attention."

"Don't teach based on a test! Teach the whole curriculum, even if it's not on the test."

"Make the class about learning, not just passing."

“Putting forth effort to make kids smile.”

“When a teacher is energetic it will cause us to be engaged because you are engaged.”

“They mix it up, the schedule, and do something new. Not the same thing every day. Do something unexpected. I find my focus is better when things are new or else I feel back on the hamster wheel of boredom.”

“When teachers extend deadlines if everyone is struggling because it demonstrates compassion and understanding of the students struggle with the work.”

“When a teacher deeply understands the subject they teach, they can answer almost any question and can go on tangents about the subject which expands students understand.”

Understanding: Fair/supportive/kindness/compassionate:

“Comprehends that students don’t learn all the same way.”

“My teacher told us a real experience when they had a student’s blood type and it didn’t match his parents. Through that we understood how blood types work.”

“Even if the homework load is the same, it is effective if teachers acknowledge this fact.”

“Talk about your life because we forget teachers are human.”

“Be kind and passionate, so we can follow along.”

“Doesn’t get mad at mistakes. Treats it as part of the learning experience.”

“Teachers can teach you in a method that you can understand.”

Ineffective Qualities

Boring/lifeless/busy work/monotone voice:

- “Putting up notes to copy or class work to do without really teaching the class about it.”
- “It is ineffective when teachers are a grump because a teachers mood often affects a students behavior and opinion of the class.”
- “It is very boring when teachers only have us look at the textbook. As a result of the boring structure of the class, I don’t look forward to going to that class. “
- “When a teacher talks in the same monotonous voice the students check out and end up missing material. When a teacher assigns the same type of assignments over and over again the students get tired of repetitive homework and have no enthusiasm to do the assignment. When a teacher responds to a students question with “weren’t you paying attention?” it makes the student feel embarrassed and stupid.”
- “When the teachers are bored themselves and bring no excitement to class—its contagious!”
- “Something that really bothers me and I think is ineffective to us as a student is busywork. We don’t like looking into a book, copying down the problems, then solving it, we like interacting with the other students. For a change, put yourself in the shoes of a student. After an entire day of school or just waking up from a rough nights sleep, we have to go into this box called a classroom with a bunch of other kids feeling the same way.”
- “It is ineffective when a teacher just gives lectures all the time. A better way to engage students in the class is by creating fun activities once in a while. This way, the students would understand and obtain information better than just sitting down and zoning out.”
- “Having a monotone voice will put students to sleep.”

- “Also, if a teacher is one dimensional and only teaches one way then that creates an almost unbearable environment for the students. A boring and dead environment causes students to lose their inspiration to learn.”
- “When a teacher talks the whole class, students will only listen for 20-25 minutes. The rest of the time, they will sleep, talk, be on their phones, or just sit and do nothing.”

Condescending/rude/disrespectful/arrogant:

- “Teachers that make fun of or belittle students, taking advantage of authority, “because I said so.”
- “When teachers are rude to you. It can feel like they don’t like you and they can make you feel stupid if you answer a question incorrectly.”
- “It is not effective to be arrogant because it shuts the students down and makes learning uninteresting.”
- “When teachers belittle students it makes students withdraw their attention.”

Impatient: Uptight/yelling/mean/too strict/moody:

- “Setting an abundance of rules the first day is a bad first impression, while it also pushes students stress levels up dramatically. It is easier to achieve one’s full potential in a relaxed environment rather than stressful.”
- “If the teacher yells at a student it makes us feel a little self-conscious on what we should say next or makes us get stressed out.”
- “Not to yell when wanting to communicate strongly. If your class pays attention, there is no need for yelling.”
- “It is ineffective when students feel dumb for asking questions. Some teachers assume that the student wasn’t listening or is lazy for asking “dumb” questions, but usually the student just needs it to be re-explained or explained in a different manner.”
- “Impatient: one of the most common qualities of some teachers. Some students it take time to learn the material and when you have an impatient teacher it makes the student not focus and makes learning difficult.”
- “Unfair punishments are when a teacher punishes the whole class or group for one or two people’s wrong actions.”
- “When a teacher tells students, they are making excuses when they are actually going through a rough time.”
- “How are we supposed to follow directions that are given by someone who we don’t know? Teachers shouldn’t be so tense and should breathe. Insecurities are seen and if one does take things personally the environment of the class shifts in a negative way.”
- “When they yell at you for getting a question wrong in class. Another example is when you raise your hand and they yell and say put your hand down I don’t have time for questions.”
- “You can be late because of traffic or late bus. We work really hard to do the homework the night before and it’s not fair for them to not accept it because of the environment, which we have no control over.”

Double standard/unfair/racist/sexist:

- “When a teacher is being disrespectful as to being racist towards the student such as saying a certain student that is black comes from a disrespectful family from Africa that doesn’t know manners. The teacher doesn’t have a right to say that because first that is being racist to the student, second it is bad for the teacher’s image, and third the teacher doesn’t even know where the student comes from.”
- “Doesn’t allow you to get up, but yells at you for being tired.”
- “An example of an ineffective teacher is when teachers have favorites and they pick on those students only and that makes students not want to participate because they know who the teacher is going to pick.”

Lack of effort: Apathetic/ lazy/ careless/ no control:

- “Any apathy to learn or teach will cause those around you to be equally as unmotivated, for if you do not want, and/or do not care to share your own topic, what motivation will those about you have to learn? A teacher must have a passion for their own subject if they expect to pass any information to their students.”
- “Also the unit tests aren’t teacher made and it comes from people that don’t know where we are. “
- “It is ineffective when they don’t give feedback on homework.”
- “When teachers say, “I don’t care if you pass or fail.” It gives a lack of motivation to the class. So, now the students don’t care.”
- “Teachers shouldn’t bring negative emotions from the before class to the next.”
- “When a teacher is messy and disorganized it shows laziness coming from them. We learn from the people we surround ourselves with. If a teacher is lazy, then the students will gain those qualities. Then the teacher will complain about their class being messy/disorganized, but really it started from the teacher.”
- “Puts a book in front of you and says do the work.”
- “When teachers sit behind their desk doing social media and eating while kids attempt to learn from the book—they aren’t doing their jobs.”
- “If you’re asking a question and your not making you’re question clear to them they just ignore you.”