

ITA Training Workshop descriptions and participants' comments:

Workshop 1 “Giving lectures and presentations your students can understand.” - Strategies and tools that make your teaching and your students' learning easier.

- Why is it so important to build rapport with your students and how can you do it?
- Get to know teaching strategies that actually help your students learn.
- Did you know that you can practice how to better understand and correctly answer student questions?

A few participants' comments to this workshop: *I learned how to teach in a better way; Petra covered a lot of useful strategies that will make my and my students' lives easier; I most benefitted from the model of how to answer student questions. I was afraid of what to do when I don't understand a student question. Now, I know.*

Workshop 2 “Strategies for an effective classroom management.” - Best practices to deal with student expectations and behavior.

- What does classroom management mean at American institutions of Higher Education?
- Insight in the five most common classroom challenges International Teaching Assistants encounter and how to best deal with them.
- Overview of experts' opinions (McKeachie, Curzan) and their tips for effective classroom management.

A participating student's answer to the feedback question “Would you recommend this workshop to other Teaching Assistants?” was: *“Absolutely! This workshop is really effective for new TA's”*

Workshop 3 “Pronunciation/Intonation.” - Improve your intonation to enhance your comprehensibility.

- What's so special about English vowel sounds?
- Intricacies of the English word and sentence stress: English listeners need emphasis to understand what is said! Learn which word to stress in a sentence.
- Helpful practice tips about how to become a more intelligible speaker.

Students stated the following regarding this workshop: *“The vowel practice was enlightening. Also, the stress /pitch that must be emphasized when speaking.”* and *“I know much better now what I can do to speak in a more comprehensible way.”*

Workshop 4 “How to hold a presentation that will be remembered” - Become a structured and confident speaker.

- Audience – organization – delivery - body language – question & answer session: In which way is presenting in the US different from your home country?
- Answers for non-native speakers of how to be an effective presenter despite English language flaws.
- Do’s and Don’ts of PowerPoint design.

A former GA in this workshop said, *”This workshop is not just for Teaching Assistants. I will recommend this workshop to fellow RA’s. It is very effective in improving presentation skills.”*

Workshop 5 “How to be approachable, fair and professional at the same time” - Hold effective office hours, know about FERPA regulations, grade fairly, minimize complaints, and optimize and use your syllabus to enhance your professionalism.

- Overview and resources of important UW rules and regulations.
- How can they affect or back up your performance as a teaching assistant?
- Case studies and useful strategies: You are not alone!
- Holding efficient office hours & conversational tools for office hour visits.

To cite a student’s feedback comment from this workshop: *“I highly recommend the workshop to other TA’s because they will gain important information about grading, students’ rights and TA’s responsibilities. I learned many things I didn’t know before, but I have to know as a TA.”*