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Fall 10-2016

## Teaching Tips October 2016

Annie Buckley

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### Recommended Citation

Buckley, Annie, "Teaching Tips October 2016" (2016). *Teaching Tips*. 2.  
<https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/teach-tips/2>

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## Monthly Tips, October, 2016 / Edition 1

Hi everyone!

My absolute favorite part of this work is going to the sites to work with our participants and all of you. This past week was a great one. We had our first fall Leadership Meeting and ALL three sites had incredible teaching days with few (best we can hope for ☺) hiccups. Because I see all of you at various sites, I decided to put together some tips each month that I think will support everyone across our various courses and sites.

Each month, we will address an issue related to two areas: 1) facilitating a positive, calm, creative environment for our incarcerated participants, and 2) the logistics of teaching.

- 1) **WHAT'S IN A NAME?** This one is inspired by our Research Team's visit to Father Greg of Homeboy Industries this summer. We decided to use first names in our program as much as we can. In a short time, the first names are having a big impact! So much so, in fact, that it made me realize that now we need to shoulder the big responsibility of remembering these precious first names!

In the spirit of honoring these individual's bravery in sharing their names, here are some tips to help you remember them. *I propose we make a collective goal for October to ALL learn and remember the names of the participants in each of our classes. Will you join me?*

Here are **some tips that have helped me to remember names** over the years....

- Ask everyone to say their name and something about themselves and the key here is, try to repeat the names after they are said. (Hi Raul, I like purple too. Etc). I also like to write the names down in the order they are said so that I can check my list later.
- Make it a goal to learn all the names in the first two weeks. Use them often to help you remember. If you don't know, ask. Then use it often so you remember next time.
- As in everything, do your best. Nobody is perfect! But using first names seems to have a positive impact for our participants. So let's see if we can do this together!

### 2) PRE-TEACHING

This month, let's focus on the pre-teaching (pages 23-28 of the Teaching Handbook).

- Take a moment to relax and remind yourself of personal and collective goals and intentions. Relax, find your way to calm happiness and let that be your base to come from all day.
- Look at your lesson plan for the day. Be clear on your goal for participants; what do you want them to get out of the day? How will you guide them to get there? Check to see: Does the plan clearly identify questions you will pose to students? Is the time divided to allow for various approaches to group (whole, pairs, small groups), guided learning, and individual practice? Have you created space for art history, art making, and reflection? Are you clear on the plan?
- Finally, check the guidelines for the facility where you will teach. Be sure you have the directions, check clothing rules, and remember all the facility policies and regulations.

*Thank you again for your dedication and work. Enjoy!*  
~Annie