

Tips for Students, from *How to Get on the Right Side of Your Professor*

(Lunch with a Prof conversation with Dr. William Lyons, 9/14/2010)

DO	DON'T
Embrace learning.	Don't send emails to your prof when you are upset. Upset students sometimes attack professors verbally in a way they're not proud of later, but the damage is done once "SEND" is hit.
Realize that Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit is our ultimate teacher. Professors facilitate that learning.	Don't barter for grades.
Understand that profs get excited when they see you learning.	Don't approach the classroom with a consumer mindset; "I've paid my money, so let's see how good you are at teaching me." You don't pay for a grade, you pay to EARN a grade.
Relax. It is not your job to fight off liberalism in every class. Truth will stand. Just seek truth, even if it challenges some of your constructs.	Don't waste class time asking questions about the reading if you didn't do it.
Read your assignments BEFORE class so you know what's going on.	Don't take everything the teacher says as Truth. Measure everything against Scripture and ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you learn.
Make a point of stopping in to see profs (briefly) during their office hours.	Don't be afraid of you profs.
Choose your battles carefully. Profs tend to shut down when they see you coming if you want to argue about EVERYTHING.	Everybody gets some "grace" from most profs. Don't waste your grace on stupid things.
Attend class.	Don't rely on an electronic recording of class instead of attending and listening yourself.
Understand that an education should challenge you, not just reinforce your presuppositions.	
Don't whine if the class is hard. Step up to the plate! You are paying for the opportunity to learn and sometimes learning is hard.	
Understand that profs like people who pay attention in class and do good work.	
If you're assigned to read a book by a give author (not an editor), find out about the author. Where did they study? What else did they write?	
Do home research on your professors. What are their areas of research or interest? What have they written? Read some of their work, especially their doctoral dissertation. Talk to them about your thoughts and questions about their work.	
If several students are comfortable with a prof and you see that prof enjoys talking with students, invite the prof out for coffee with your group.	