

Session 1 Part 1: Meet Your Teaching Team (Sharing teaching experiences and teaching goals)

Goals:

Faculty members will be able to customize the introduction of their course based on the teaching experiences of the TA team.

Both faculty and TAs will develop a good working relationship.

TAs should be able to articulate teaching goals; to answer the question, what kind of teacher do I want to be?

Instructions:

Go around in a circle with each member of the teaching team (including faculty) answering the first question. When everyone is done, move on to question 2. You can skip questions if you are running out of time so that you get to the last one. After questions 4-7, a facilitator should briefly summarize the recurring points (example: say, “here are some of the common words I heard people use to describe your favorite professor/TA: enthusiastic, cared about me, and tried to make course interesting”). At the end of this discussion, TAs should have a better idea of what makes a good teacher and have a goal of what kind of teacher they want to be.

1. Introduce yourself (name) and describe your undergraduate institution. Is it a big place, small place? Number of chemistry majors?
2. Ask your group to describe their experiences in the course that they are now TAing (for example ask, “What was your organic chemistry course like? What did you like best about it and what did you like least?”). If a graduate student is TAing freshman chemistry and didn’t take it, ask them to describe his/her first chemistry class.
3. Did you ever have a TA when you were an undergraduate student? Prior to this training, what job description did you have in mind for a TA?” (example: TAs grade only)
4. Who was your favorite college professor or TA and why?
5. What factors were important to you in deciding to study chemistry in college?
6. Do you have a role model for what type of teacher you want to be? Describe that person.
7. Name one thing that excites you about TAing. Name one thing that makes you nervous about TAing.

Session 1 Part 2: Course Information

Goals: TAs will become familiar with course policies and faculty expectations.