

Tips for Teaching Large Classes

1. Be prepared: that is, know the structure and matter of your lecture so well that you can roam from the podium, make eye-contact, interrupt the flow with questions and handle any questions the students might have.
2. Begin slowly to settle the class: give the students something to copy; make announcements; summarize the story so far.
3. Use technology to convey information for which you have no time in class; do not use it as a substitute for your teaching.
(This depends to a large extent on your discipline and your goals in teaching. If you have numerous equations which lead to the conceptual point you are trying to make it can be useful.)
4. Look up from the podium; try to read your students' faces and adjust accordingly.
5. Ask questions; involve your students in the advancement of the lecture.
6. Find the humor in your material.
7. Answer all questions with patience--but if a questioner comes to dominate your lecture, you can ask him or her to wait for office hours.
8. Ditto student comments.
9. Ditto (more or less) wrong answers.
10. Upon conclusion of the lecture, ask students to write down a sentence or brief paragraph summarizing what it was about and what they learned that they did not know upon entering the classroom.