



# To My Professor: Student Voices for Great College Teaching

*Michigan State School of Journalism*

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"To My Professor: Student Voices for Great College Teaching" begins with remarks by students about their professors. They tend not to be the kind of remarks that professors usually hear, and some are harsh. Others are full of gratitude for teachers who inspire and motivate. The "To My Professor" statements are really just starting points that lead to advice from master teachers. Teaching college is difficult and this book has some potential solutions. More than 50 chapters cover situations including expectations, communication, technology, race, gender and religion, mental and physical health.

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### 1. Structures & syllabi

The syllabus: road map for a smooth experience  
Don't serve lessons after their freshness dates  
Being available for students: Making office hours count  
Mutual civility means knowing and respecting your audience  
Going beyond grades to feedback and growth  
Student safety matters on and off campus

### 2. Engaging everyone

Getting the whole class involved  
Loafers and lax rules give group work a bad reputation  
There is an arms race and many shades of gray in academic fraud  
Getting names right: It's personal  
Profane professors: Tactical or tacky?  
A professor walks into a classroom: Humor 101  
College can be a lonely place for conservatives  
Remarks about appearances are more than skin deep

### 4. Technology

Email etiquette starts with good ground rules  
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Managing the demons of digital distraction  
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Getting athletes to bring their A-game to academics

### 6. Health and wellness

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Helping students' mental health and well-being  
Profs can help with attention and executive functioning  
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Food allergies, an overlooked health hazard  
How instructors support visually impaired students  
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## **7. Racial inclusion**

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#BlackOnCampus is about what goes on inside classrooms, too  
Teaching the growing population of Latino students  
Beyond face value: The diversity and depth of Asian Americans  
Native Americans: Dealing with cultural misunderstandings  
Ahead of the curve: Teaching toward more varied diversity  
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Texts and supplemental materials can be expensive seem superfluous

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