



Make Them Believe In You

When we believe in someone, we trust them. We have confidence in them. We have faith in them. We are saying that person is reliable and deserving of our loyalty...that they have credibility. Students desire these character traits in their teachers. In fact, John Hattie's research revealed that teacher credibility has a 0.90 effect size on student learning.

How can we earn credibility with our students? After a certain age, kids are skeptical. They can tell a fake from the genuine article, right?! In 2000, Dr. William Haskins, a professor of speech communication at McKendree University in Illinois, wrote a paper on the subject of teacher credibility. He gave us four characteristics that students use to judge our credibility.

The first characteristic that a teacher needs to be considered credible is **trustworthiness**: the pupil must feel the teacher has their best interests at heart and truly cares about their success in class. Teachers who are consistent and fair with classroom discipline, include all pupils in activities, treat all pupils the same and do not embarrass them are more likely to develop trustworthiness. To develop an even deeper trust, the teacher could ask about pupils' home life and interests outside school.

Competence is the second key component of credibility. A teacher must not only have mastered their particular subject area, but must also deliver it in a meaningful way. To do this they need good classroom management skills, the ability to answer questions and the capacity to explain complex material in a way pupils can understand. Teachers must also be **dynamic** in how they interact with their class and present their material in an exciting and engaging way, using a diverse range of techniques. If a teacher lacks charisma or is unenthusiastic about the topic, they will lose credibility with pupils.

The most recent addition to the list is **immediacy**, which involves using certain techniques to reduce distance between teacher and pupils. These can be verbal - for example, using collective pronouns such as "we" or "us", or non-verbal - making eye contact or rearranging the class into a circle so they all feel part of the group.

There are so many circumstances in the world that cause our students to lose trust in adults, and as educators, it makes our work increasingly more complicated. This is just a call for us to work even more diligently to help our students believe in us.

Teacher Credibility .90
If students don't perceive you as credible they will turn you off!

4 Key Factors:

1. Trust
2. Competence
3. Dynamism - develop style of speaking that doesn't use "OK?", "you know", "umm"
4. Immediacy - reduce your distance from students.

Fall Events

- ◆ **October 1**, KY Continuous Improvement Diagnostic due in Eprove
- ◆ **October 1**, Brigrance Data Entered
- ◆ **October 4**, Elementary Reading Festival Winners Submitted
- ◆ **October 4**, Professional Development Day, Google Academy Session at CO, 1—3 p.m.

Inside This Issue:

- [Teacher credibility: why it matters and how to build it](#)
- [10 Ways Teachers Make a Difference](#)
- [Characteristics of Effective Teachers | Teaching Commons](#)
- [4 New "Effective Teaching" Methods To WOW](#)

Spotlight on Excellence



Students in Mrs. Lisa Hicks' 2nd Grade class at Star Elementary presented a play about the effects of erosion to Mrs. Monica Clines's 1st Grade students.

Way to go Star scholars!

