

Tips for USC Viterbi Students Leading Outreach Programs with K-12 Students

- **When introducing yourself, share a non-academic hobby with your student**
 - Make sure students see that you have other interests outside of school to help them understand that they can become engineers, scientists, coders, etc. regardless of their other hobbies or race/gender/ethnicity
- **Connect material to current events/challenges in their community.**
 - Students, especially in high school, are more likely to care about the material when they can connect it to the world around them. When teaching a new lesson, try to find a connection to a current event or issue pressing the student's community.
- **Encourage discussion**
 - Make sure lesson plans always include questions for student discussion. Think about having students talk in pairs or small groups so students feel more comfortable sharing out.
- **Celebrate success**
 - Celebrating students' small victories and accomplishments will help them feel motivated and inspire them to deepen their education. Use specific language to point out what students did well so they know what to repeat and other students know how to improve.
- **Offer choices and be flexible**
 - Students have different learning styles and learn at different speeds. Get to know your students and how they learn. For example, if you are speaking to a group, consider having the main points written behind you for visual learners to reference. When asking students to complete a project, let students be creative in the form that their project takes.
- **Embrace your mistakes**
 - When you make a mistake in class, acknowledge it. These situations model that you can learn from mistakes and they are a normal part of learning.
- **Let students make decisions**
 - Children who can make their own decisions become more invested in the result of that decision and are more likely to follow through with a task due to their emotional and personal investment in it. Ex. allowing students to decide where they want to sit in a classroom.
- **Be fair/consistent**
 - Accommodate each student to their unique needs and ensure that each student feels welcomed to the space. Make a conscious effort to call on every student equally and consistently to foster inclusivity. Treat each student the same and apply the same rules to every student.

Tips for USC Viterbi Students Leading Outreach Programs with K-12 Students cont.

Resources:

- <https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/10-tips-for-classroom-volunteers/>
- <https://www.nshss.org/blog/how-to-engage-high-school-students-in-active-learning/>
- <https://busyteacher.org/10666-teach-9-tips-engaging-middle-school-students.html>
- https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/teachers/blogs/genia-connell/migrated-files/student_teacher_tips.pdf
- <https://www.gadoe.org/SiteAssets/Pages/Computer-Science/CS%20Teaching%20Tips.pdf> (CS Specific)
- <https://magoosh.com/praxis/top-8-tips-teaching-young-learners/>

