

PowerPoint Slides

How Can I Learn Student Names?

Presented by:

Ivan A. Shibley, Jr., Ph.D.





Presenter Bio:

Dr. Ivan A. Shibley, Jr. (Ike) is associate professor of chemistry at Penn State Berks, a small four-year college within the Penn State system. He received his B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and his Ph.D. in biochemistry from East Carolina University. Between undergraduate and graduate school he spent four years in the Navy where he taught nuclear physics and radiation safety. He now teaches introductory chemistry, general chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, philosophy of science courses, first-year bioethics seminar, and senior science seminar. His research involves pedagogical approaches to improving science instruction at the college level. He has won both local and university-wide awards for his teaching including this year's Eisenhower Award presented to a tenured Penn State faculty member who exhibits excellent teaching as well as mentoring other teachers.

Ike became involved in blended learning as part of an 18-month project to completely redesign the general chemistry course at Berks. As part of a team of six professionals who invested over 1,000 man-hours in the redesign Ike helped provide the pedagogical and subject matter expertise to help guide the redesign. The course has now been delivered in a blended format for three years with an average GPA almost 25% higher than previous years. Ike has taught the three sections of the course and is currently co-authoring a manuscript about the results. Ike recently redesigned a nutrition course that was taught in a blended format that met only half the number of hours of a traditional course with comparable grades. He has presented his work on blended learning at numerous professional conferences and has become an advocate of blended learning.



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**How Can I Learn
Student Names?**

Ike Shibley

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Why Learn Names?

“Remember that a person’s name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language.”

– Carnegie, Dale. (1932) *How to Win Friends & Influence People*

2

Why Learn Names?

- Handing work back to students directly signals respect and concern
- Calling on students by name makes discussion more likely

3

Why Learn Names?

- Students are more willing to ask questions when called on by name
- Names can build trust, make the course more organized and increase instructor rapport

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Techniques

- Photos on first day
- Digital camera; make a collage



Ike Shibley

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Techniques

- Required visits to your office:
 - To pick up syllabus
 - To pick up assignments
 - To pick up first exam

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Techniques

- Opportunities in class:
 - While students do an assignment
 - While students take a quiz
 - Ask students their name when they raise their hand

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Techniques

- Groups:
 - Learn names of group members
 - Have students introduce themselves when you visit their group during class

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Techniques

- Ice Breakers (smaller classes):
 - Name and major; something interesting about themselves
 - Adjective with same letter as first name, e.g. inquisitive Ike

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Techniques

- Ice Breakers (smaller classes):
 - Favorite superhero, cartoon character
 - Course specific: favorite element, author, historical era

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Techniques

- Assignments:
 - Survey about course
 - Survey about personable attributes
 - Mini-autobiography

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Techniques

- Assignments:
 - Have students turn in work as they arrive (look at names as you collect)
 - Look at names as you pass work back

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Techniques

- More subtle ways:
 - Make your own seating chart based on usual student seats
 - Quiz yourself while proctoring exam or while students work in class

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Conclusions

- Names are a central part of being learner-centered
- Find some techniques that work for you and diligently apply them
- Practice, practice, practice

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