



HOW TO TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION OF STUDENTS & GET THE BEST OUT OF THEM



What our new generation student looks like:

1. Everything in their world is instantaneous – they get what they want when they want it – there is very little waiting
2. Fast and easy access to stuff – information is at their fingertips and it's quick. If they aren't getting what they want, they will look elsewhere. No searching through the phone book for another studio, just a quick swipe on their phone.
3. They tend to be more results driven (which is not a bad thing) except they want it straight away.

Because of this, many students are missing the fundamental training of skills, progressions and techniques. They don't have an understanding of the time and what it takes to become an exceptional dancer or that there is a need to continually practice to train their muscles. This is detrimental to their training – and so this is where we need to step-up as the 'new generation' of teachers and teach them accordingly.

Before you step into the classroom, ask yourself these three (3) questions:

1. **Who** are you teaching? Age, Ability, Skill level
2. **Why** are you teaching them? Comps, Rec, Exams, Professional
3. **How** are you going to teach them to get the best out of them?

There are 5 skills I'm going to talk about. You use these across the board with your teaching. It doesn't matter who you are teaching or why because you'll learn to slightly tweak each of them to get the best out of your students.

And let me tell you, once you nail this, your career will accelerate because you will be desired and studio owners will want to pay you good money to teach for them because you become an asset.

When I find teachers who have mastered these skills, I want them as often as their schedule allows and I'll pay them well because it benefits me to have them teach for me.

The Five (5) Essential Skills that will accelerate your teaching career:

1. Plan & Prepare – Before you get to class, during class, student practice

- a. *Allow your students to progress* & achieve their goals
- b. Allow for *you to track your student's* progress & ensure they are *hitting targets* and that you're getting through planned choreography
- c. *Get results quicker* cause its being tracked

2. Communicate – in the form of feedback, expectation, your delivery

- a. *Clear expectations* gives you greater control

“Your students know what will make you happy and know what will make you cranky.”

A student can't get in trouble for breaking the rules if they don't clearly know what they are! On the flipside, if you have clearly explained these to your student and they break them, you can then take the next necessary steps of consequence.

b. Feedback – one of the ways our *students will improve and progress* is with clear and honest feedback. This needs to be delivered with *respect and graciousness*.

1. Praise them for something they did well or you liked
2. Tell them with clear and specific details of what needs improving and show them how
3. Finish with something positive – even if its... *‘I know you can do it... Keep working at it’*

c. Your delivery of chore, progressions and instructions – If they look vague or they aren’t doing what you asked, check it with yourself and how you told them. Your students are going to hear and process your words differently.

1. Some learn by you speaking
2. Some learn visually
3. Some will need you to physically manuevre or manipulate their body in order for them to understand where how and where their positioning should be

3. Understand – who it is you’re teaching

- a. Know their skill level and experience
- b. Know and understand their reason for being there
- c. (This is a biggy!) – Check your ego at the door.

When you step into the classroom, it is about your students, not you...If you struggle a bit with this mentality, maybe you should go back into the classroom as a student for a while.

“You can’t be a great teacher if you aren’t a great student!”

4. **Anticipate** – the emotional breakdowns and breakthroughs.

- a. **Personality conflicts and jealousy** will happen between students – how can you prevent this or manage it?
- b. **Knowing** there can be **tricky dynamics**, get **creative in the classroom** when it comes to things such as positioning, formations, challenging
- c. choreography
My personal favourite, have a plan B & C (just in case mercury is in retrograde or there's a full moon).

5. **Consistency** – Did you have a teacher who was your bestie one minute then turning into a monster if they had a bad day or something went wrong?

- a. **Be firm but fair**
- b. **Stay consistent** with your rules; expectations
- c. **Remind** your students every lesson what they are

“**Your consistency leads to your students respecting and having confidence in you as their teacher.**”

So just to **recap** those:

1. Plan and Prepare
2. Communicate
3. Understand
4. Anticipate
5. Consistency

If you master these 5 skills people will want to hire you, people will want to give you more classes and people will want to pay you more because you are sooo good.

When I find one teacher who has nailed these things, I want them as much as their schedule allows and I will pay top dollar to keep them as they are an asset to me.

As your coach, I can help you get really, really good at this meaning people will want to give you more hours and pay you good money – if you truly **MASTER THE ART OF TEACHING.**

Jen Dalton

The Dance Teacher Coach