

DR. J. MARQUARDT
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STUDENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIP
PERSONAL VS. PROFESSIONAL

You, the student, and I the professor have a **professional relationship** that might be new to you. It is different from the **personal** relationships you have with your friends and family and that you may have had with your high school teachers. So let's establish the rules of this new relationship. Your job = student at WKU. You are at WKU to learn English and to prepare for a career in a new, global world. WKU will provide the **resources** necessary for getting that career. My job = professor. I am one of the resources of WKU that will prepare you. Around you are other students. Some of them [hopefully many!] will be your friends. But all of them are your **colleagues**.

Misconceptions: you pay for an education = you get an A.

[1]Reality: You pay for access to WKU and the many resources involved (i.e. library, courses, professors, educational community). The marks you make are entirely up to you (A's are not given. They are earned.)

Topics with Business Colleague:

Appropriate

- Issues or ideas of work
- Curiosity
- Professional difficulties
- Understanding an idea
- Deadlines

Inappropriate

- Personal Issues
- Sucking up
- § Bribes
- § Gifts
- § Comments about physical appearance
- You are not expected to *hide* personal issues, but these should not be the subject of conversation.

Example: It is ok if I know that you are dating X, but it is not professional to discuss problems you are having in your relationship with X within a professional setting.

- Invasions of privacy/personal space.

Example: Taking photos without asking. Posting them online.

“Invest Time”/“maintain professional identity”

How to do this at WKU?

- Participate in class
 - o *helping your colleagues*
 - o *improving the relationship you have with me.*
 - o East vs. West Concepts of “failure”
- Visit during office hours

Do: come with problems or questions

Do: Come to share information (“I found this cool thing I think you would like!”)

Do: expect your professor to be caring and compassionate

Do: expect professor to work/solve problems *with* you

Do: respect your partner’s time

- make an appointment

Don’t: “kill time” or “put in time” (if you come to my office, I expect you to have a purpose for doing so)

Don’t: expect your professor to do all the work/solve problems *for* you

Other Professional Behavior

- Speak English in the classrooms and hallways
- Don’t run like a child
- Come prepared to classes and meetings
- Don’t sleep during class/meetings
- Email/Online presence (use an appropriate name for your audience)

[1] Image taken from

<http://www.marketingprofs.com/charts/2012/8961/professional-vs-personal-the-social-media-mindset-divide>