

KEYS TO SUCCESS AS A FIRST-YEAR TEACHER

(OR: HOW I GREW UP IN ONE WEEK)

Andrei Strizek, presenter
UW-Eau Claire NBA Meeting
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www.andreistrizek.com

Key No. 1: Relationships are vital.

"Everything about business comes down to PEOPLE. Where in business can we escape the impact of human care, human creativity, human commitment, human frustration, and human despair? There is no reason for anything in business to exist if it does not serve the needs of people." – Bruce Cryer

Key No. 2: Take your time.

*"Patience is a virtue."
"Do not confuse activity with productivity."*

Key No. 3: Be yourself.

"You have no responsibility to live up to what other people think you ought to accomplish. I have no responsibility to be like they expect me to be. It's their mistake, not mine." – Richard Feynman

Key No. 4: Expect the unexpected.

"There is frequently more to be learned from the unexpected questions of a child than the discourses of men, who talk in a road, according to the notions they have borrowed and the prejudices of their education." – John Locke

Key No. 5: There's no need to reinvent the wheel.

"If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants." – Issac Newton

Key No. 6: Be prepared.

*"Fortune shines on the prepared mind."
"Failure to prepare is preparing to fail." – John Wooden*

Key No. 7: You are a teacher of music, not a musician who teaches.

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." – Henry Adams

Key No. 8: Be prepared for failure. Then turn that into a success.

"Failure is instructive. The person who really thinks learns quite as much from his failures as from his successes." – John Dewey

"A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable but more useful than a life spent in doing nothing." – George Bernard Shaw

Key No. 9: Always strive for excellence.

*"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."
– Aristotle*

*"Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way." – Booker T.
Washington*

Key No. 10: Keep searching!

"We must not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we began and to know the place for the first time." – T.S. Eliot

"If we keep doing what we're doing, we're going to keep getting what we're getting."

"Cultivate your garden." – Will Durant

RECOMMENDED READING

Covey, Stephen R. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. Franklin Covey Co.: New York, 1989.

Feynman, Richard A. *"Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!"* W.W. Norton: New York, 1985.

Feynman, Richard A. *"What Do You Care What Other People Think?"* Bantam Books: New York, 1988.

Keith, Kent M. *Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments*. Berkley Books: New York, 2001.

Johnson, Spencer. *Who Moved My Cheese?* Putnam: New York, 1998.

Lamott, Anne. *Bird By Bird*. Anchor Books: New York, 1994.

Marsalis, Wynton. *To a Young Jazz Musician: Letters from the Road*. Random House: New York, 2004.

Postman, Neil. *Conscientious Objections*. Vintage Books: New York, 1988.

Thomas, Lewis. *Late Night Thoughts on Listening to Mahler's Ninth Symphony*. Penguin Books: New York, 1983.

Wooden, John. *Wooden: A Lifetime of Observations On and Off the Court*. Contemporary Books: New York, 1997.