

*I Want to Connect with As Many
of My Students as Possible: What
Should I Keep In Mind?*

Academic Outreach and Innovation's Faculty-Led Workshops (FLWs)
Simple changes to make a big impact

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I Want to Connect with As Many of My Students as Possible: What Should I Keep In Mind?

- What are the different types of connections?
- How do I make them and sustain them?
- Impactful strategies and methods of implementation that the faculty can incorporate in their classroom management immediately

Do you think being connected to an instructor enhances learning?



<https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-and-learning/fostering-student-connectedness-building-relationships-classroom/>

Yes. Absolutely.

Overall Median Rating of the Instructor

Semester/Year	Course Number	Number of Students	G. Gakhar
Spring 2019	Biol 111	20	5.0
Spring 2019	MBios 306	21	*4.0
Spring 2019	MBios 440	32	*4.0
Spring 2018	Biol 220	36	4.0
Spring 2018	Biol 107	23	*4.0
Spring 2018	MBios 440	16	*3.8
Spring 2018	Biol 111	24	5.0
Summer 2018	Biol 111	8	5.0
Fall 2018	MBios 304	17	*4.0
Fall 2018	Biol 354	25	5.0
Fall 2018	Biol 111	23	4.0
Fall 2017	Biol 354	8	5.0
Fall 2017	Biol 111	22	5.0

**4.0 being the highest rating. Online data unavailable for other semesters/years*

Student Comments in Blue Course Evaluations

MBios 440, Immunology, Spring 2019

- GG is a phenomenal professor, in fact, the most effective professor I have had in my undergraduate career. She is intentional, precise, knowledgeable, and fair.
- She can effectively and efficiently teach immunology by simplifying complex pathways or concepts in a visual way. This was one of my favorite classes in undergrad, despite the challenging nature of the subject.

Biol 354, Human Anatomy, Fall 2018

- Honestly cares about her students and how they are doing. Goes out of her way to say good luck before exams and the breathing exercises were really helpful.
- She also did great in making it so that she taught the material and made class fun. I was really really really happy to be in her class and she made our lab feel like family. Everyone who wasn't in her lab was really jealous.

Student Comments in Blue Course Evaluations (cont.)

MBios 305 General Microbiology, Fall 2019

- GG was the favorite thing about this course. Her enthusiasm for teaching, her respect for her students, and her passion for microbiology really made the class enjoyable. I really hope she continues to teach Micro.

MBios 304, Microbiology and Molecular Biology laboratory, Fall 2019

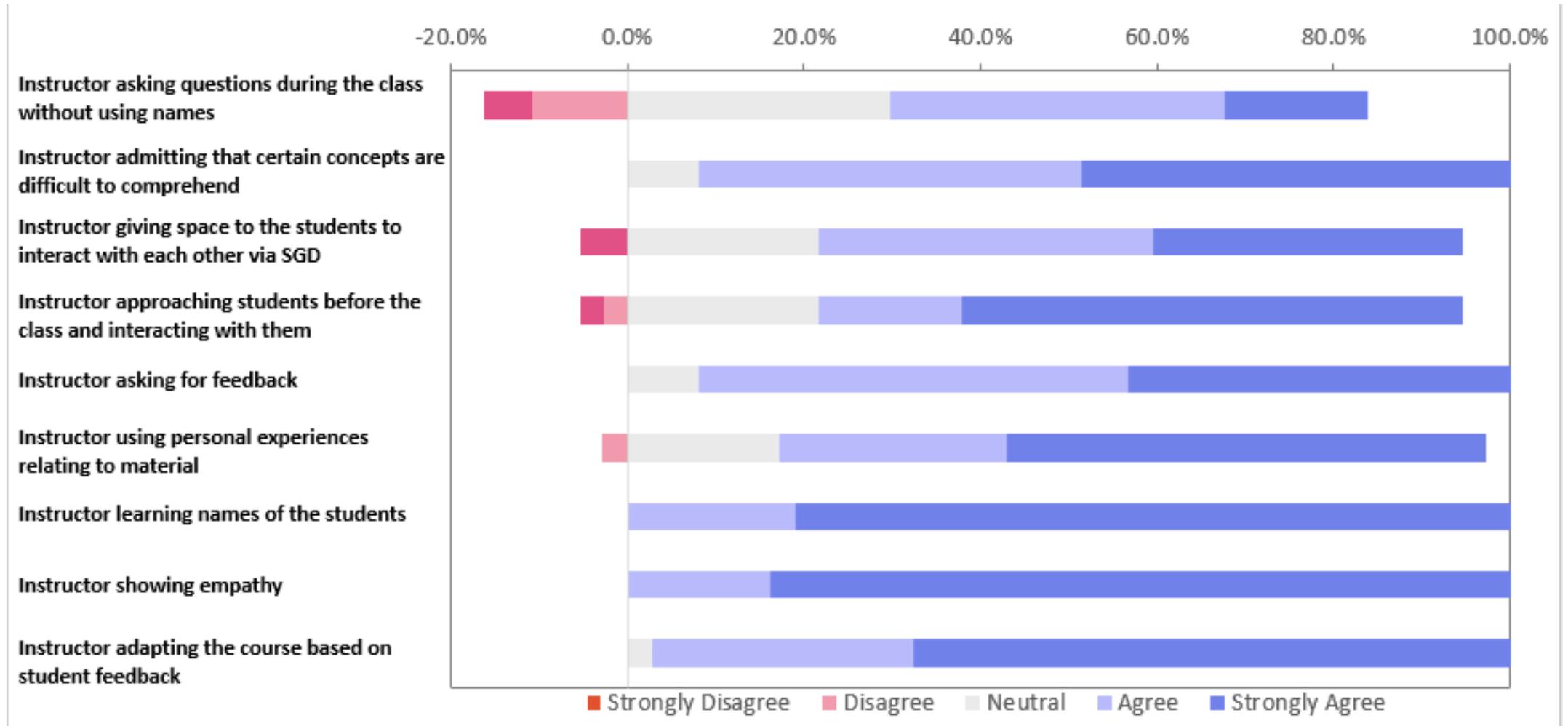
- The environment of the class. GG, made every student feel heard and continually encouraged us and checked in when things seemed off. I was confident in my grade because I knew that GG would answer any of my questions and created a space so that anyone felt comfortable to ask questions.

Questions Asked to Students

Q1. What are the different strategies/ways used by an instructor that makes you feel **connected** to an instructor?

Q2. What are the different strategies/ways used by an instructor that makes you feel **disconnected** to an instructor?

Ways by which Students Feel *Connected* to the Instructor



Ways by which students feel *disconnected* to the instructor

Instructor not understanding students

Instructor not giving time to copy slides in the lecture

Instructor making things more complex than they need be

Instructor not addressing student concerns

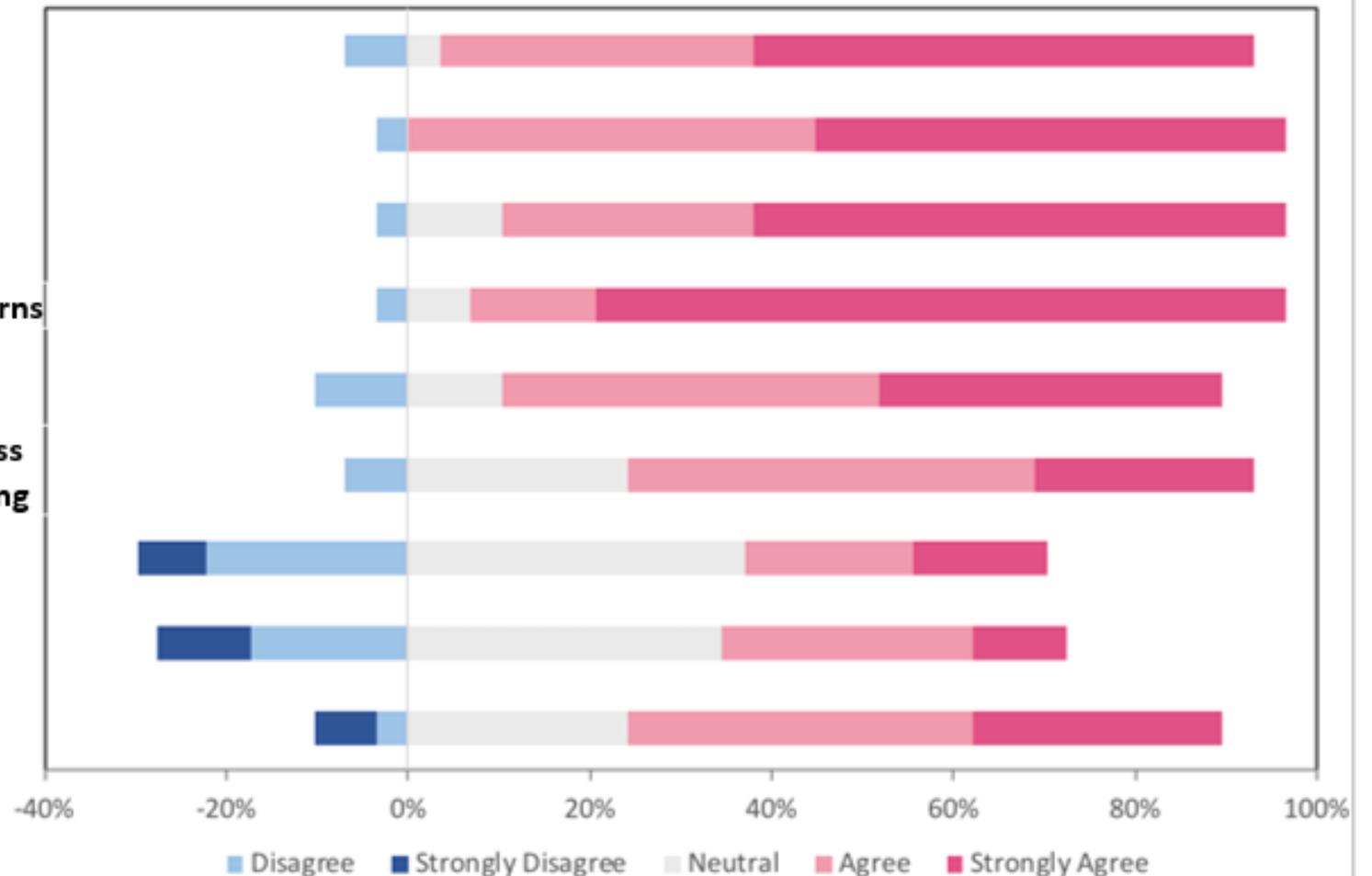
Instructor going fast in lectures

Instructor starting the lecture as the class starts without asking students' well-being

Instructor reading from slides

Instructor asking for note-taking

Instructor talking without giving breaks



Self Reflection

- Not understanding their students
- Admitting certain concepts are difficult
- Learning students' names
- Not addressing student concerns
- Not giving time to copy from slides
- Showing empathy
- Going fast in lectures
- Adapting course based on student needs
- Asking for feedback

Ways by which students feel connected to instructors in an *online environment*

Online Connection Methods	Percentage
Zoom	57.6
Emails	3.0
Blackboard	6.1
Multiple Methods	30.3
Total	100.0

Ways by which students feel connected to instructors in an *online environment (Cont.)*

Zoom

- Small group discussions using breakout rooms
- Working through this together
- Polling function allows knowing *how students are doing*
- Interactive lectures
- More connected; feels one-on-one interaction
- Chat function allows every student to ask questions

More ways students feel connected to instructors in an *online environment*

Emails

- Answering queries
- Faster replies

Blackboard

- Posting updates
- Frequent reminders