

## Teaching Demonstrations

---

---

*Search committees, particularly at teaching-focused schools, like to see candidates in action. One method for doing so is the teaching demonstration, which can take several different forms and reveal much about applicants.*

### TYPES OF DEMONSTRATIONS

- Classroom Lecture: Sometimes faculty will ask you to guest-lecture in one of their actual classes. Listen very carefully to the instructions and ask clarifying questions.
  - Request a copy of the course syllabus so you know what text is being used, what material has already been covered, and what material comes after your presentation.
  - Ask about course title, class size, grade level, room details, and length of time you should teach.
  - Are you supposed to teach the specific topic indicated in the syllabus for the day of your visit or can you choose a different topic related to the course?
  - Are you expected to lecture, lead a discussion, or both?
- Visiting Presenter: You may be asked to prepare a class and present it to a random group of students, staff, and faculty. Make sure you ask:
  - Who is invited to attend?
  - What level of knowledge will audience members have about your topic?
  - Will you be videotaped?
  - How long should your presentation be?
  - Can you select any topic?
  - What technology will be available?

### IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- Be clear about expectations.
- Be prepared for anything.
- Use techniques and technology with which you are familiar.
- Demonstrate a variety of teaching methods, including didactic and interactive components.
- Use visual aids such as handouts or slides.
- Prepare a few discussion questions.
- Reserve necessary equipment.
- Realize that both your content knowledge and your presentation skills are being assessed.
- Manage your time well and end on time.
- Answer audience members' questions with respect.
- Practice your teaching demonstration multiple times.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- <http://chronicle.com/jobs/2002/07/2002071601c.htm>
- <http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/history/grad/phd/phdjobtalk.html>