

# Your One Minute Teaching Tip for Today

enhancing your growth as a teaching professional

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## Three Types of Students in Your Program

Three different ways of looking at the world

Take a fresh look at your students--by identifying their orientation to their world.

This orientation affects everything--from how I approach a problem, to how I interact with people, my level of patience and tolerance for some things, and most importantly, my work behavior.

Orientation refers to the way you manage information.

**The Detail Freak**--needs to know all the information before proceeding, important to have things in place before moving ahead with a decision or a project, may get caught up in minutiae--and lose focus about the goal. Keep reminding them of their goal.

**The Big Picture Guy**--You have to point the details out to this person! These folks focus on the end goal, the particulars are unimportant to them. They show little patience for Detail Freaks, and sometimes seem like 'the bull in the china shop.'

**The Massagers**--also known as the analyzers. Often get stuck in discussions (mentally or out loud) about every aspect of the situation. To Detail Freaks and Big Picture Guys, the Massagers can be annoying--they want to talk about "What if . . ." and "Maybe . . ." instead of moving ahead and doing something. This personality type is the most likely to leave things unfinished. "Tell me what you're going to do." is a good statement to use with a Massager.

Don't lose sight of your personal orientation. Be aware of how it influences your perception of student behavior too.

-Mary J. Pryor

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