Vanessa,

I enjoyed reading your post. I began teaching last September with over 20 years of industry experience. To be honest, being in front of the classroom is not somewhere I expected I would find myself. In university, most, if not all of my professors maintained a “respectful distance” teacher-learner relationship. I assumed that this must be how all post-secondary instruction is done. The first two or three times I was in front of the class, I was focusing on being like this as well, until I quickly realized I could not do it. It was not me. I found that keeping a maintaining relaxed learning environment, using humor and stories often, and showing students that I truly care about their success was going to be far more effective than the more rigid approach I was used to in school.

In my thread in this discussion, I mentioned that I maintain a “collegial relationship”, which I do. However, after re-reading the “close relationship” section in the textbook, I realize that I am a little bit of both.