

Outline: Day #1

1 Introduce Myself

1. Name
2. How long at SMU?
3. Position (Forensics & Biology)
4. Research interests
5. Role in forensics:
 - Wildlife forensics lab
 - RCMP training
 - SMU (Halifax Police, ME's office)

2 Introduce Course

2.1 Classes

1. Major international issues
2. Major international laws and regulations
3. Major Canadian issues
4. Major Canadian laws and regulations

2.2 Labs (focus)

1. Detailed methods of molecular species identification (like a forensic technician)
2. Apply this to food from local sources
 - Mis-labelling food is very common, in restaurants as well as stores
 - Will get a feel for this in Halifax
 - Is fun! Always find something interesting

2.3 Questions?

3 Teaching Style

3.1 Setting the Stage

1. If I were to talk to each of your professors from last term, and get a copy of the final exam for one of the courses that you took, and you were to take it again right now. . .
 - Raise your hand if you think you would do as well now as you did at the end of last term.
 - Raise your hand if you think you would do just *a little bit worse* than you did at the end of last term.
 - Raise your hand if you think you would do *a lot worse* than you did at the end of last term.
2. Why do you think that you would do worse?
 - Discussion
3. But if the goal of the course was for you to learn that stuff, but you don't know it now, did you really learn it? (*or perhaps they just memorized it for a little bit*)
 - Discussion
4. If how you did on the final exam does not represent what you really learned, what function does it serve (or any test)?
 - Discussion
5. You are all experts at something (playing a sport, playing a musical instrument, drawing, painting, writing, playing video games, and so on)
 - (a) How did you become an expert in that?
 - Discussion
 - (b) Did you become an expert by *listening to someone else talk about it*?
 - Discussion
 - No! You became an expert by *practising yourself, over and over and over again.*