Action Project For Getting Better Teaching

1. Take some time with several classmates to develop a list of things that good teachers do. List specific, observable behaviors.

2. List all those things you might do that could be rewarding for an instructor.

3. Observe each instructor to see how much or how little the desired teaching behaviors occur.

4. Compliment and reward instructors who do many of the things you list as good teaching.

5. Observe how you react when a teacher is less than what you would like. Ask yourself, “Do I do any of the things which upset and frustrate teachers?”

6. Track positives. When an instructor is low in giving you good teaching behaviors, look for any little signs of improvement and immediately reinforce the improvement.

7. Ask yourself, “Am I a rewarding person to have in class?” If you are not, outline some specific behaviors for yourself and start practicing.

Remember: You can make a difference. You can either choose to help your instructors be better instructors who enjoy teaching or you can choose to act in ways which cause instructors to be unhelpful and boring. Mediocre instructors are often created by students who do not appear to care about their education.