

Template for defining your role as a TA

Theoretical Questions:

- How much are you going to let students know about yourself? For example, will you tell them your religious affiliation or disaffiliation? Your political leanings? Your position on a controversial topic? What are the possible ramifications of these decisions?

- What do you want to get out of your time as a TA? List 3 pedagogical, professional, or interpersonal goals.

Practical Questions:

- How accessible will you make yourself to the students? What boundaries will you establish?
 - E-mails
 - How quickly will you promise to respond?

 - Phone calls
 - Will you give the students your phone number? Can they call you anytime?

 - Where will you hold your office hours, and how can you use this time with your students effectively? How many hours a week will you be available to meet with students? How will you handle the pre-test and/or pre-paper rush?

 - Will you hang out with your students outside of class? What consequences might this decision have?

 - If you use Facebook (or other social networking sites), will you accept friend requests from students? If so, will you accept such requests during the semester that you are actually teaching the students, or wait until the semester ends? What will you do if students post inappropriate content on their pages that you can see?