

Prof Psychology 101

Simple tips for getting along better with your professors.

By Emile Andre

Showing up for class, paying attention, taking notes, doing the work, passing the tests—this should be enough for a good grade. But good social skills are sometimes as important as good study skills in getting through a tough class. Here's some practical tips to help you stand out.

First off, make sure the professor **knows your name** and something about you. Putting a face with a name is a big help, especially if your grade is borderline.

Every professor has office hours, and since they have to be there, you might as well take advantage of them. Dropping by a professor's office gives you a chance to see what they're like out of class, to find out what else they might be interested in, and most importantly, give you a chance to stand out in their eyes. Make up an excuse to visit: You can **clarify something on the syllabus**, or discuss the choice of a **term paper topic**.

And if you receive a low grade for something, you certainly can discuss **what went wrong on a test or with an assignment**. You can always visit a professor **before a big exam**, to clarify what the overall approach will be. It's also a great chance to warn a professor if you need to **miss a class**, or if you've missed one unexpectedly and have work to make up.

Relationship building is especially important in your major and minor departments—these are instructors you'll likely see over and over again before you graduate. So get acquainted: ask for **course planning advice**, or seek out special help for **career development** or finding a worthwhile summer **internship or job**. If you already have a certain **interest area** in your major or minor, let the professor know—there might be a project that you can get inside information on.

Some classes are tougher than others—these are the professors you should be seeing regularly. Don't be afraid to ask for copies of **previous exams**—a professor who doesn't want to share exams will just say no. And if you get into real trou-

ble with a professor, **don't overreact**. Always try to remedy conflicts with faculty members first. If the problem remains unresolved, seek advice from your academic advisor, a student support services staff member, or check your student handbook for the proper complaint protocol. •

Make sure the professor knows your name. Putting a face with a name is a big help, especially if your grade is borderline.

For more practical tips on dealing with professors, go to steamtunnels.net



What irritates professors and instructors?

1. Sleeping in class
2. Brown nosing
3. Not going to class
4. Lack of responsibility
5. Not reading the syllabus
6. Excuses
7. Asking irrelevant questions

Source: barcharts.com/kcollege1.htm

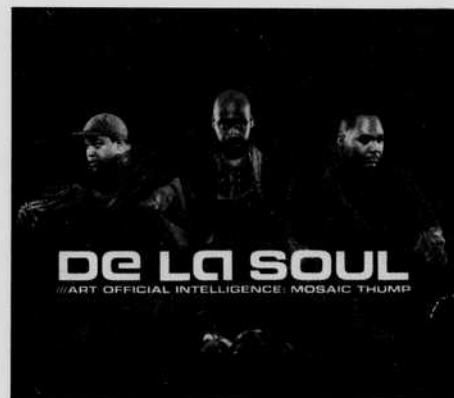
musicmusicmusicmusicmusicmusic

De La Soul *Art Official Intelligence: Mosaic Thump*

(Tommy Boy)
By Tony Green

Hip-hop career strategies often lean toward the sure shot—namely, find out what works, and keep at it. Part of the problem is the genre's quick trend turnover, which impels a lot of artists to try to make their loot while the making's good. But this "follow the latest trend" method doesn't easily accommodate artistic growth. De La Soul's protean approach has allowed them to age better than many of their contemporaries.

The group's fifth album, *Art Official Intelligence: Mosaic Thump*, doesn't sound like the work of a group in its 13th year. Rather, it sounds like the work of three ver-



balists who have mastered the art of serious fun, are relaxed enough to abandon the often theme-oriented approach of past albums, and are confident enough to let their muses follow their own whims. On some tracks, like "My Writes" and "Oooh," they trade lines with a bevy of high-fiber guest stars (Redman on the latter, Xzibit and Tash on the former). (Chaka Khan, Busta Rhymes and a couple of the Beastie Boys also guest on different tracks.)

Crackpot skits like the recurring "Ghost Weed" shtick show that the group's oddball edge didn't depart with Prince Paul. And while they've added some R&B sheen to their boom-bap, their puzzlebox rhymes and ironic lyrical twists ("All Good?" "The Art of Getting Jumped") remain intact, showing that time, change and experience can't keep de la Soul's best features from shining through. •