Teaching Economics with RBG: Relevance, Belonging, and Growth Mindset

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OUTLINE

1. Background
2. Relevance practices
3. Belonging practices
4. Growth Mindset practices
5. Questions and/or feedback
Acknowledgments

1. St. Louis Fed Professors Conference
2. AEA’s 2021 EDUCATE Workshop
   (Expanding Diversity in Undergraduate Classes with Advancements in (the) Teaching (of) Economics)
Background

1. The term RBG in economics teaching was first coined by Amanda Bayer
2. Bayer et al. (2020): higher RBG $\rightarrow$ better performance and persistence in economics courses and major, especially for women and underrepresented minorities
   • diversifyingingecon.org
Definitions

- **Relevance**: when students find economics relevant and useful
- **Belonging**: when students experience a sense of belonging in the class or the discipline
- **Growth mindset**: when students believe that they can become good economists
Relevance
Relevance

Goal: let students experience the usefulness of economics

Some practices:
1. Fun, interactive lectures
   • Memes, resources from MRU, econ.video, and more
   • “Choose your own example”
   • Data: FRED
2. Classroom experiments/games
3. Podcast presentation assignment
Belonging
Belonging

Goal: make students feel they belong to the class community and the economics world

Some practices:
1. Planning the 1\textsuperscript{st} day of the class
   - Opening survey
2. A creative attendance policy
   - Use random.org to draw the names to be taken
   - Use the fun facts collected for attendance taking
3. Showing alumni/senior student success
4. Cooperative learning
Growth mindset
Growth mindset

Goal: let students believe that there is a place for them in the economics world

Some practices:
1. Tips: how to do well
2. After the first exam
3. Inviting outstanding senior students to share his/her research/project
4. Link teaching contents to job opportunities
   • Ex: Macro, Money & Banking
Notes

Heart and care
• Ex: the instructor needs to have a growth mindset

Some golden timings
• First class
• After the first exam
• A long break
• Sometime after the semester ends
QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?

THANK YOU!