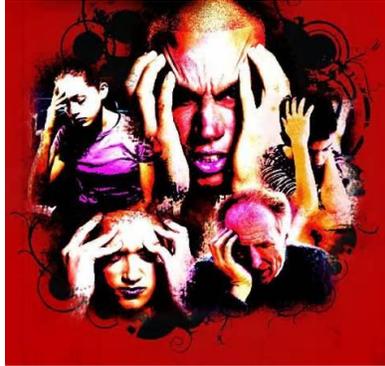


# Psychological Disabilities



## Possible Student Characteristics:

- Test-taking anxiety.
- Distracted easily.
- Problems with concentration.
- Drowsiness.
- Problems with attendance.
- Trouble meeting due dates.
- Trouble keeping appointments.
- Difficulty dealing with social situations.
- Trouble maintaining stamina.
- Difficulty dealing with stress.
- Difficulty dealing with new situations.

## Teaching Tips:

- Provide regular feedback on academic work.
- Test on a frequent basis.
- Structure your lectures by using Powerpoint or another form of an outline.
- Consider allowing written assignments in lieu of oral presentations, or vice versa.
- Consider being flexible in allowing students to complete assignments or exams when hospitalized.
- Stand close, but don't crowd his space when talking with the student.
- Be sure to maintain eye contact when talking to the student.
- Convey interest, concern and alertness through body posture and facial expression.
- Don't fear students with mental health problems. The majority of these students just need someone to listen. If you understand that they may need help, the situation should not turn hostile.
- Monitor group work. Be sure everyone is involved when you break into small groups. If someone is trying to do all the work and is also experiencing a mental health problem, it will cause him anxiety.
- Remember, you don't need specialized knowledge to help a student through a rough time.
- Ignore behaviors that while not ordinary, are not disruptive.
- Give out as much written material as possible to augment lectures.
- Write on the board as much as possible.

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