

How To Be More Charismatic

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There are teachers who seem blessed with natural charisma.

The lucky ones.

They with the [easy charm](#). The effortless vibe. The secret something that causes students to want to please them and behave for them.

Must be nice, huh?

But the truth is, they're not so different from you and me.

They just embrace *one simple thing*.

Before we get to what that one thing is, it's important to mention that there are many strategies we've already covered here at SCM that build strong, behavior-influencing trust and likability with students.

They include, most prominently . . .

- Consistency
- Pleasantness
- Calmness
- Kindness
- Humor
- Pace
- Manner of speaking

Together, they'll without a doubt, and often dramatically, improve your charisma.

There is one thing, however, you can do to make them even more effective. This one thing has a way of supercharging your ability to influence, motivate, and inspire your students.

So what is it?

Well, there is an odd phenomenon that takes place the moment many teachers stand in front of students.

Maybe it's fear. Maybe it's nerves or lack of confidence. Maybe it's the belief that effective teachers must behave in the same buttoned-up, cookie-cutter way.

Whatever the reason, they become almost entirely stripped of their true personality.

This is a big problem. Because when you inhabit a teaching persona that is different from your natural self, you become uninteresting and hard for students to pay attention to.

Thus, the secret to having more charisma, *the one thing*, is to embrace more of who you really are. No, this doesn't mean that if you cuss up a storm at home that you should do so at school or that you have permission to [be a grouch](#).

You are, after all, limited by common professionalism.

But the more you can embody the essence of you, which should feel as comfortable as slipping on your old college hoodie, the more charismatic and influential you'll be.

I know what you're thinking: *"But who I really am isn't charismatic. I'm plain and like to do boring things."*

Doesn't matter.

The truth is, you *are* charismatic. [Just as you are](#). In fact, it's your uniqueness, your quirks and idiosyncrasies, your vulnerability and

eccentricity, even your perceived weaknesses that are your greatest strengths.

Once in a while I get an email from a reader looking for excuses why the SCM approach won't work for them. (None ever hold water.) But one of the most common is along the lines of *"Well, you're just a natural teacher, and it all must come easy for you."*

But if you're a regular reader of SCM, you know that not one of the principles, strategies, or methodologies that make up SCM are contingent upon having *any* natural ability.

I'm nothing special. I'm introverted by nature. I'm not a smooth talker. I'm frequently awkward. Again, doesn't matter. In fact, these very things help endear me to my students.

Charisma is nothing more than the inward acceptance and outward expression of the best of who you really are.

To have more of it, all it takes is a little courage, a small leap of faith, and the refusal to be anything but ordinary, kind, awesome, weird, goofy, imperfect.