Students learning any difficult topic

This free assessment gives me an opportunity to evaluate their expectations of me as their professor and allows me to comment on their expectations. This also allows the students to assert their individuality and gives them a sense of autonomy. Several studies suggest this helps student outcomes.

Online quiz given at the start of the semester

Students feel like they have an opportunity to be heard. I address the expectations of me that several students expressed to the entire class. All feedback from students say they have never been asked what their expectations were, and they appreciated the chance to express their views. This also gives me the opportunity to tell the students about resources. When they say they would like sample exams, I tell them where to find them etc. I am not sure how to measure this directly, but I seem to have a better rapport with my students since I started asking this.

Facilitating Student Autonomy

Research in educational psychology supports the idea that students tend to perform better when they feel that their opinions and contributions are valued and have an impact. This concept is often associated with a sense of autonomy and engagement, which are important factors in student motivation and learning outcomes.

Example interaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student expectation:</th>
<th>“slow down and provide more examples”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My response:</td>
<td>“I will slow down when I can, but we do have a lot of material I need to cover. If you ever need more examples, please feel free to reach out to me.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why I do this?

Students feel like they have an opportunity to be heard. I address the expectations of me that several students expressed to the entire class. All feedback from students say they have never been asked what their expectations were, and they appreciated the chance to express their views. This also gives me the opportunity to tell the students about resources. When they say they would like sample exams, I tell them where to find them etc. I am not sure how to measure this directly, but I seem to have a better rapport with my students since I started asking this.