

*I had several mentors in my life. One of the first was my grade six teacher. Even though I was already a good student, she encouraged me to excel. I wanted to please her and to be like her. I felt liked and respected. She expected the best from me. Although my classmates thought she was too strict, I liked and respected her because she was logical, consistent and a good teacher. She always looked smart and professional. Although not wildly entertaining, what she taught was orderly and made sense. She also seemed fair, and didn't pick on any kids. Her rules were consistently applied. I wanted to do well for her. We understood each other. I don't remember spending a lot of time one-on-one with her; our relationship was more implicit than explicit. Although I had always excelled in my schoolwork, I wanted to do my best in every assignment. This attitude has carried into my adult work life, and I always apply myself fully to any job. It makes most tasks more fun and meaningful. It gives me the satisfaction of having done my best, and the result is usually something I can be proud of and don't have to apologize for. I thank my grade six teacher for my attitude about work—to always do the best job I can. I wish I could go back and tell her about the positive impact she had on my life, and the lasting effect she had on me.*

*O.R.*



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