The Carpentries: Workshop Introductions

Your Academic Past

- Think back to courses or workshops you really liked or didn't like
  - How did they start?
  - Were you confident in instructor's abilities?
  - Was instructor enthusiastic about course and invested in you?
  - Was it clear what you were going to be learning?
  - Were you excited about the material?

Your Academic Past

- Or...
  - Did you leave first day thinking instructor was uninterested?

  - You think you weren't the learners they wanted to be teaching?

  - Did you have no idea what the course was about?

Goals for the Introduction

- After introduction, learners should
    - Believe in your competence to teach
    - Be able to predict type of instruction
    - Know what will be taught
    - Know what will be required of them

- Instructor should
    - Have understanding of learners and their expectations

Components of the Introduction

Set Positive First Impressions

- Your attire
    - Research shows clothing affects judgments
        - Formal – expertise and confidence
        - Less formal – approachability
    - Easier to start with formal impression

- The physical environment
    - How are chairs arranged?
    - Rows signify formal, circles/U informal
    - This room – constrained to a U-shape

- Your use of first few minutes before class
    - Greet learners as they enter – approachability
    - Don't be late!

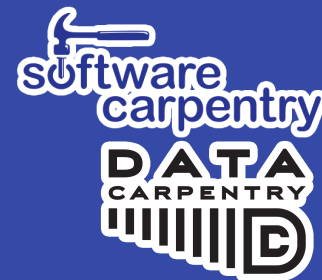# Exercise 2: Clarify Learning Objectives

Probably most important. Clear expectations helps them use their time productively

- *Describe prerequisites*

- *Highlight main aspects of the schedule*

- *Communicate workshop structure*

- *Explain expectations*

- *Communicate your commitment to the learner's learning experience*

- *Share advice for success*

Adding to your introduction, write out how you would communicate one of the concepts above.

Others Components to Consider

- Help learners learn about each other - icebreakers

- Set the tone for the workshop

- Collect baseline data on learner's knowledge and motivation

- Whet learner's appetites for workshop content

- Inform learners of logistics