Preparing for the Rookie Year: Lessons from Those Who Have Gone Before

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Abstract

Christian business faculty prepare students for careers in the marketplace. But do they do enough to help students with their crucial rookie year in business? This paper proposes that faculty could do more and that the place to begin is to learn from the experiences of prior rookies. It provides an overview on the process of organizational entry and the lives of Christians in business as well as data from interviews of recent Christian college graduates who have entered the business world. The essay highlights dozens of stories of their experiences during their rookie years. Consideration is then turned to how faculty can use this information in their teaching and advising to help facilitate students’ transition from college to corporation. Finally, implications for future research are discussed.
8) I was really happy that Ron won that competition because he had been preparing for it for half a year. 9) Had you been saving money for a new computer for a long time? — Yes, I had. 6) How long had Janet been working in the office before she went home yesterday? — She had been making photocopies of some documents for the boss for about an hour and then she had been typing some letters for two hours before her working day was over. 7) The government had been carrying on negotiations with the terrorists for three days before they reached some agreement. Stuart had been trying to call you for a quarter of an hour before you finally answered the phone. After those observations, he has a chance to discuss the lesson and receive feedback, such as on his classroom management approach or his use of tests. The mentoring and a high level of support from his school have helped him keep a positive attitude, he said. Next year, he wants to do a better job using student data to plan lessons that touch on the skills students are lacking—something he rarely had the chance to do this year because of all the other demands of his classroom and the hours spent preparing lessons. He also wants to get better at long-term planning. On standardized writing assessments, the class average had gone up by about 50 percent in most of his classes. On reading tests, scores were also rising steadily.