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Erica Flapan* (eflapan@pomona.edu), 610 N. College Ave., Pomona College, Department of Mathematics, Claremont, CA 91711. *The problem of how to be a good teacher is undecidable.* Preliminary report.

I spent much of my early career trying to find the algorithm for how to be a good teacher. I read articles about pedagogical techniques and talked to successful teachers about their methods. But nothing seemed to work quite as well for me as it did for the person describing it. Then I began to compare being a good teacher with being a good parent. I had never sought an algorithm for good parenting, so why should I expect there to be one for good teaching. In fact, there is no teaching technique that will work at all institutions, for all teachers, all classes, and all students. Rather, each person's teaching methods should fit their personality and their mathematical preferences as well as the needs and goals of their courses and their students. In this talk I will describe some pedagogical techniques that have worked for me and others that have not. (Received September 17, 2010)