

# TA Doesn't Stand for Tomato Attack

Written by: Lucas Landherr  
Drawn by: Monica Keszler

sciencetheworld.com



There are tons of benefits for graduate students when they TA: financial support, improved communication skills, having their understanding challenged and potentially broadened.



But those intellectual benefits will only come about if the grad student is engaged and invested in the class.

And the TA's involvement is critical not only to ensuring the success of students in the course, and if they are a lab TA, their involvement can ensure critical safety standards are upheld, too!



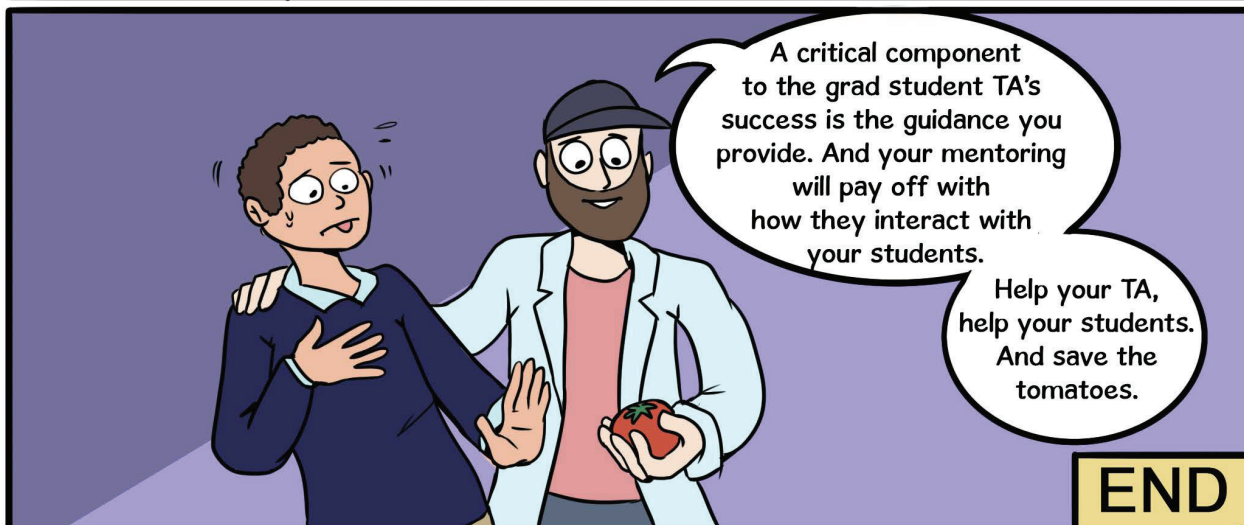
Proper mentoring, training, and a firm limit to the TA's time commitment is critical.

Otherwise, the grad student may focus entirely on being a TA as a workload, and it's a terrible experience for everyone.



So be clear and follow through!

- 1.) Define the role and expectations for the TA's involvement in the course
- 2.) Define the intellectual skills necessary
- 3.) Define the interpersonal skills necessary
- 4.) Support and mentor to ensure they can achieve as you want/need them to



**END**