



# Teaching Concerns

Newsletter of the Teaching Resource Center for Faculty and Teaching Assistants

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## **The Art of Discussion Leading: A Class with Chris Christensen**

Harvard University: Derek Bok Center for Teaching & Learning, 1992. 30 minutes.

Reviewed by William McAllister, Faculty Consultant, TRC (History)

This video outlines the methodology of C. Roland ("Chris") Christensen, a member of the Harvard Business School Faculty legendary for his teaching prowess. The camera follows Christensen as he meets with incoming graduate teaching assistants at Harvard and chairs a workshop on leading discussion groups and labs. Perhaps this video's most notable attribute is its demonstration of Christensen's philosophy of teaching by example. With humane patience, he illustrates by his manner, tone, and approach how he creates a classroom atmosphere that is both supportive and rigorous. Christensen focuses on a sequence of questions, leading his charges to discover for themselves how each can develop a teaching style that is suited to them. His demeanor is at once empowering and thought-provoking. Inspiring with his burning but quiet desire, Christensen invites emulation. Recommended for beginners and veterans as well.