Think about going to a concert given by your favorite musical group. Which songs do you enjoy the most? Those that you have heard many, many times before? Or those you have never heard (e.g., from a new album)? Why do you think a person might enjoy and get more out of hearing things they’ve heard before? Do you believe these reasons carry over to the idea of preparing for your lectures?

For each of the nine items in the table above, decide which column best describes you as a listener during your lecture classes. For each item in which you describe yourself as a "poor listener," decide whether you would benefit from changing your habit to one of a "good listener." Make a commitment to the change and try it out for a week in your classes.
REFLECTION

Reflect on the above list of important roles for your professors. Are these things you would like your professors to do for you? Which ones would be particularly important to you? Would you like to have a close advisor or mentor? Would you like to have one-on-one instruction from an expert? Would you like to have a future reference for a job or scholarship? What would it take on your part to ensure that your professors will do these things for you?

REFLECTION

How do you relate to Mr. Knaphle’s story? Have you had experiences where you came at people from your side of things and didn’t get what you wanted from them? Have you ever tried approaching someone from their side of things? Who was it? Teacher? Parent or close relative? Friend? Co-worker? Boss at work? How could you apply the lessons of Mr. Knaphle’s story to interacting effectively with your professors?
REFLECTION

What benefits will come to you if your professors know you by name that might not come to you if they don’t? Do your professors in your key classes know your name? If you’re not sure, how could you find out? If they don’t know your name, what steps can you take to ensure that they do?