

MEETING THE CLASS FOR THE FIRST TIME



Setting the tone
for the semester

WHAT MAKES YOU SATISFIED ABOUT FIRST DAY OF CLASS?



Write one or two ideas that have worked for you.

WHAT FRUSTRATES YOU ABOUT THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS?

Write one or two
frustrations.



BEST PRACTICES SUGGEST...



Important aspects of your first meeting:

- ▶ getting to know you, the instructor
- ▶ getting to know each other, the students and instructor
- ▶ getting to know the content of the course

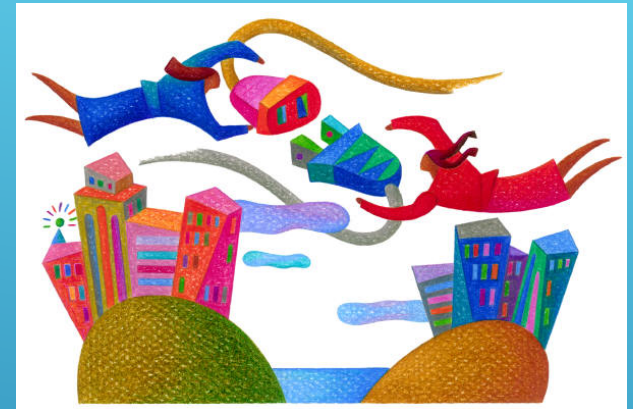
1. PRESENT YOURSELF TO YOUR STUDENTS

- ▶ spend some time talking about yourself: your personal story; your connection to subject
- ▶ share your philosophy of teaching and learning: role as instructor; expectations of students



2. GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

- Start building a community of learners:
Student collaboration is best for learning
- Start learning names
Useful instructional methods:
Names- ethnicities, talk about your name, learn how to pronounce, value diversity from the start. Use ice-breakers, name games, portrait activity & other bonding" activities. Search web: icebreakers for college classroom
- Use small group techniques, for getting to know each other and reciprocal teaching
- Faculty-student – Good student-faculty relationship is a predictor for success. Show students you are a person too.
- Not just for first day! Create foundation to build upon



3. THE CONTENT OF THE COURSE



Overview course & active (playful) discussion of syllabus

Syllabus - Point out where to find the syllabus on Bb. Create a game for students to engage with content of syllabus

Point out office hours and explain the importance of them – maybe mandatory visit to get to know – give points

Important! Many of our students are the first in their family to go to college. They may not have examples and support at home re college success strategies. Take time to teach them some of these skills. Discuss not just what to study but also how to study, during class and on Bb.

If possible take one recent news item/popular topic and relate to the course – how is it connected?

DON'T FORGET

The importance of making connections between new material and things the students already know.

Sentence starters:

- ▶ “ What I learned today reminds me of----because-----”
- ▶ “I want to connect the study of this course/today’s topic ----- to what I already know about ----, and better learn how to ---- and ----.”

CONNECTING



- ▶ Individually, connect your initial thoughts with “Best Practices”
- ▶ Discuss with a partner
- ▶ Share highlights with group

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

I am available for your
individual questions:



ELITE Instructional Designer:

Face-to-Face, Germantown Office (but college-wide service)

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