

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

Community of learners:
collaboration - learning

- ▶ Importance of names!

Useful instructional methods:

- ▶ ice-breakers, name games, portrait activity & other bonding activities
- ▶ Search web: icebreakers for college classroom
- ▶ Collaborative and active learning techniques



3. THE CONTENT OF THE COURSE



- Overview course & active (playful) discussion of syllabus
- Present at least one interesting aspect of the subject

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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