



# TEACHING TIPS OF THE MONTH FROM THE MC COMMUNITY



Brought to you by TIDES and PALS April 2018

The Faculty Program for Active Learning in STEM (GTSTEP/PALS+) ([www.montgomerycollege.edu/gtstep](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/gtstep)), the Teaching to Increase Diversity and Equity in STEM (TIDES - <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/TIDES/>) grant project, and ELITE (<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/elite/>) are happy to bring you the "Teaching Tips of the Month." Both PALS+ (a fellowship to support active-learning in the classroom for part-time instructors) and TIDES (with its focus on active learning and culturally sensitive pedagogy) seek to incorporate highly engaging learning activities for diverse student populations into STEM courses. However, as you will see, many of these activities are not STEM-specific and can be applied to any course. We also welcome your general feedback about this publication, which you can send to [tides@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:tides@montgomerycollege.edu).

## Theme: Preparing for Exam Questions

### Tip 1: Game Day

**Goal:** to help students review material for exam questions

**Description:** Game day is a low prep strategy to help students review content in a fun way. On game day, organize students into teams. Teams compete to respond to questions within a certain time limit. For scoring purposes, keep track of the order in which teams complete the task. Game questions should reflect the types of questions students will encounter on the exam.



**Example:** Game questions can include the following:

- ◆ List as many terms or concepts/terms that might appear on the exam (recall/memorization)
- ◆ Define a list of terms that will appear on the exam (vocabulary)
- ◆ Send a team member to the board to draw and/or label a diagram representing a concept (explanation/illustration)

*Optional:* Offer incentives such as treats or extra points on the exam (ex. 1st place=5 extra points, 2nd place=3 extra points, etc.)

Questions about this tip, contact: [Tammy Peery](#).

### Tip 2: Question Answer Strategies

**Goal:** to prepare students to approach different types of questions

**Description:** Taking an exam involves not only understanding the content but also knowing how to answering questions. To help students prepare for an exam, inform them of the types of questions they will encounter (multiple-choice, essay, etc.) and how to approach these questions.

**Example:** For multiple-choice questions, remind students to:

- ◆ Read all the multiple-choice questions first, before reading the text. Then, as you read, answer the questions one-by-one when you find the answer. After you finish reading, double-check to make sure you have answered questions correctly. Decide which multiple-choice questions are quickest to answer. Answer those first. Then, answer the questions that take longer to answer.
- ◆ For fill-in-the-blank questions, read the whole sentence, even the part that comes after the blank. Then, decide whether the word missing is a noun, adjective, adverb, or verb. If there is a word bank, look at the options and choose from those words that are the same part of speech.

For questions about this tip, contact [Diego Hernandez](#).