



TEACHING TIPS OF THE MONTH FROM THE MC COMMUNITY



Brought to you by TIDES and PALS Sept. 2017

The Faculty Program for Active Learning in STEM (GTSTEP/PALS+) (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.

Ice Breakers

Tip: The Best Ever



Goal: To learn about students' academic experiences, course expectations, etc.; to practice group problem solving

Description: Post 4-6 pieces of chart paper or poster board around the room. On each sheet, write a "Best Ever" sentence starter, such as "The best study tip I ever learned is ____" or "This class will be the best ever if ____." Have students use sticky notes to write a response that completes each statement.

Next, divide students into groups, one per "Best Ever" statement. Group members sort the sticky notes according to categories that they decide.

Variation: Groups can briefly present their sorts, or you can collect them and use the data for a subsequent class/activity.

Tip: Candy Questions

Goal: To build community and identify common characteristics and interests

Description: Distribute 1-2 pieces of colored candy (M&Ms, Lifesavers, Skittles). Show students a pre-made list of questions, each corresponding to a different candy color (ex. brown = Name an exciting place you have visited; yellow = What are you looking forward to in the class?). Students take turns responding to the questions that coordinates with the color of their candy.



Variation: Have students move into groups based on the color of their candy then answer all questions with their group members.

Contact angela.lanier@montgomerycollege.edu about these tips.