



TEACHING TIPS OF THE MONTH FROM THE MC COMMUNITY



Brought to you by TIDES and PALS January 2018

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.

The First Days of Class: Getting to Know You

Tip 1: : Getting to Know Your Students

The first days of class are usually spend on introductions—to the content and to your students. Taking time to learn your students is often just as critical to course success as students learning the content. Surveys can be a useful tool for learning more about your students. Use or adapt the [Getting to Know You Survey](#) to discover useful information about your students' lives, interests, learning preferences, or experience in the discipline.



In addition, what better way to get to know your students than to learn their names! Name Games are an easy way for the class to learn each others' names.

One simple way is for students to sit in a circle. Each student presents his/her own name then memorizes the names of fellow students who previously introduced themselves. If the class is too large, do it in smaller groups. For more ideas on learning students' names, check out [these strategies](#) described by other college professors.

For more information about the Getting to Know You survey, contact ala.webb@montgomerycollege.edu

Tip 2: Helping Students Get to Know You

Students often forget their professors have lives outside the classroom. So, help them see the “human” side of you with a family, interests, etc. Some examples of what to share:

- ♦ your ethnic or cultural background (if comfortable),
- ♦ what led you to teaching and the academic discipline,
- ♦ your teaching style (what do you expect of the students and of yourself)
- ♦ photos of you engaged in activities outside of the classroom
- ♦ a personal story or experience, particularly from your own college /learning experience



Sharing this information might help you connect with students, which could be useful when seeking ways to motivate them.

For more information about these tips, contact carolien.annink@montgomerycollege.edu