Planning for Day 1
Creating Community in a Remote Section

Engaged Teaching
Teaching + Learning Commons
Introductions

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Expectations & Intentions for Today

You will prepare for the first day by discussing ideas & strategies, including how you might:

- Start to build community remotely
- Communicate expectations
- Scaffold participation with both technology & content

... and you will likely still have questions, which is ok!

Type questions into chat or ask during Q&A time
Physical vs Digital Classrooms

Write ideas using “chat” function:

What are some things about a course that may be less obvious in digital environments than in physical classrooms?

Click here & here to raise hand
Roadmap

Ideas & Strategies to Implement:

- Before Class Starts
- “In Class” on Day 1
- Throughout the Course
Before Class:
Introduce Yourself

Post a pre-recorded video introduction

- Show your personality
  - Talk about hobbies, tour your workspace, introduce pets, etc.

- Include words of comfort about new class format
  - “We’re all learning together”, “I know we can figure this out”, etc.

- Focus on “first steps” for students
  - Consider low-stakes early assignments that help students to become familiar with course logistics
Before Class:

Get to Know Your Students

- Send out a pre-class survey* to students
  - Ask about their internet capabilities
  - Ask about the students more broadly
   *See our sample survey (link in chat)

- Give them a chance to talk to you about unique circumstances & needs
  - Open ended survey questions
  - Virtual office hours (before class)
Roadmap

Idea & Strategies to Implement:

● **Before Class Starts**
  - Introduce Yourself
  - Get to Know Your Students

● “In Class” on Day 1

● Throughout the Course
In Class:
Introduce Students to Each Other

- Include an icebreaker* in class
  - Zoom “breakout rooms” can be used to facilitate small group discussion

Let’s try it now

Share some form(s) of entertainment you have enjoyed during recent social distancing

*See our list of icebreakers (link in chat)
In Class:
Introduce Students to Each Other

- Create a low-stakes assignment that requires students to read about or interact with peers
  - Upload an image (or gif) that represents you
  - Contribute to an online discussion board (& respond to 3 others)
  - Find something online to “bring” to the class
In Class:

Scaffold Student Use of New Technology

- Limit the number of different platforms used for class
- Create content-light assignments that build familiarity with different course tools
- Clarify when/how students can ask for tech assistance*

*See “Preparing to Learn” site for students (link in chat)
In Class:
Communicate Course Expectations

● Syllabus & Class Basics:
  ○ Prerequisites for class
  ○ Grading schema, due-dates, readings & materials

● Expectations for Students
  ○ “Attending” class, submitting assignments, taking exams

● What Students Can Expect From You
  ○ Availability & feedback
  ○ Commitment to learning
In Class:

Communicate Communication Expectations

Be explicit about when/how students should communicate with you & with each other:

- Questions about course content
- Personal or individual issues
- Tech questions

Discuss community norms for communication:

- Be respectful
- Critique ideas not people
- Share responsibility for including all voices
  … etc.
In Class:
Engage Interest in the Course

● Cover some (interesting) course content
  ○ Focus on deep questions & issues within the discipline

● Ask students to do an activity
  ○ Generate hypotheses about the course
  ○ Imagine chapter titles for a textbook
  ○ List questions about this topic
  ○ Complete a pre-test
  ○ Go on a “scavenger hunt”

Adapted from Eberly Center at Carnegie Mellon University
Roadmap

Ideas & Strategies to Implement:

● Before Class Starts
  - Introduce Students to Each Other
  - Scaffold Use of New Technology
  - Communicate Expectations
  - Engage Interest in the Course

● “In Class” on Day 1

● Throughout the Course
Throughout The Course:
Regularly Check-In With Students

- Instructors cannot “read a room” in remote classes
  - No nonverbal cues, no informal Q&A...

- Give students other opportunities to let you know how they are doing:
  - “Exit Tickets”
  - Student Surveys
  - Virtual Office Hours
  - Scheduled Q&A time
Additional Resources:

- Sample Student Surveys for Remote Classrooms
- Icebreakers for Online Community Building
- 10 Tips for Creating Community through Remote Instruction
- Preparing to Learn
- Copy and create your own guide for “Planning for Day 1”
Questions? Reach out to us!

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Thank You!