Empowerments for Student Learning Exclusively for Adjuncts

Honoring learner-centered teaching activities and supportive teaching environments in a changing paradigm of higher education

Expand your knowledge. Broaden your resources. Spark students' inspiration.



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At the beginning of the term, we want to make students feel welcome and engage them in the classroom community. Introductory exercises such as the following can be done on the first day or repeated during the first 2 weeks of the new semester. Here are 2 quick, meaningful activities to try.

If you like to encourage one-to-one interactions, try the Get to Know Another Student activity. Have students get into pairs and chat with their partners (no more than 2 minutes for each partner). Then have each student introduce his/her partner to the class in one-minute.

To learn the names of students, try the Name Game. This is a great way for the whole class to quickly learn students' names! Have students think of one adjective that describes themselves. The adjective must begin with the same first letter as their names (example: Lovely Lynda). Then have students state their adjectives and names to the class. Finally, you could also have students recall the names of all who went before them.

These simple — but effective — exercises will give you the opportunity to foster community in your classroom. Students will be impressed that you can use their names in class, and this is a springboard for students to get to know each other better.

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