

Online Teaching & Learning Collaborative (O-TLC)

Ideas for Introduction Forums

Are you looking for creative ways to introduce yourself and learn more from your online students? Here are tips from more than 20 Granite State College faculty that can help get you started!



- Provide a personal introduction that includes information about your own accomplishments and teaching philosophy to help students relate to you early on!
- Share an interesting fact about yourself. What do you want your students to know about you? What might they find interesting enough to engage in your introduction forum?
- In your introduction, provide tips for navigating your course. What should all students know to get started?
- Model what you want from your students in your own introduction. This should serve as a template for them as they create their own introductory messages.
- Ask your students to share one interesting fact or hidden talent. This is a great way to engage other students in the discussion, and you might learn some interesting facts about your students!
- Ask students to share any fears or hesitations they might have about the course itself. This can be helpful in gauging where students might need extra support throughout the course.
- What are you students looking to gain from the course? Have them provide some expectations and personal learning goals in their introduction. This can help you as the instructor to be able to meet their expectations and goals.
- Respond, respond, and respond. Respond to all introductions with a quick comment that speaks to the student's own introduction. Speak to their own achievements and goals. Keep the conversation flowing if possible.
- Let your students know that you are there for them throughout the course. Making yourself accessible will help them navigate successfully through the course.
- Arrange for one-on-one introductory virtual meetings with your students if feasible. This can help create a standing relationship early on with your students.
- Have fun and take time to learn from your students right from the start. They are a huge resource of information and knowledge to both you and other students!



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