FIRST DAY TIPS

CULTIVATE CURIOUSITY

What do you find interesting and exciting about your field and the subject? Share that with students! Get them asking questions, or do an activity together! Curiousity can be a great motivator, and ensure students start the course enaged and ready to learn!

BUILD COMMUNITY

Having a supportive community enables us to take risks, try new things, and challenge our ideas. Build community in a class by telling students about yourself, encouraging students to talk to each other, and creating community guidelines for discussions.

CHALLENGE STUDENTS

Don't feel like you have to wait to get started with learning! Having a lesson plan for the first day can help set the tone of the course. You can ask them to do something they may not be quite ready for, drawing on what they already know before coming in!

CHECK TECH

Visit your classroom the week before classes start to check out the tech in the room. Log in to the classroom computer or practice connecting your own. If you cannot go before, arrive early with a variety of adapters and get logged in or hooked up before time for class, keeping in mind there may already be a class present!

GET META

Talk with students about the skills they will need to complete the course. What strategies do they have that have been effective? What support may they need from you? You can ask them to reflect on their best class experience and make a list of the strategies that they used in that class.

HAVE FUN

Try to enjoy yourself, and getting to know your students. You might try an ice-breaker, or name games. Curate a playlist for while students are coming in and getting settled. Do something that makes the first day of class exciting and fun for you!

ESTABLISH EXPECTATIONS

Each of your students and yourself will enter the classroom with different expectations. Use the first day to establish what they can expect from you (email reply window, grading) and what you expect from them (attendance, participation, assignments).

CONSULT WITH CELT

Come talk to us! We love to talk through how to implement strategies and help you build the course you want to teach! You can contact us at: **bit.ly/contactcelt**