

Building Community in the Classroom/Day One

- **Review the Syllabi**
 - Read through important aspects with questions and answers (most exciting or most challenging aspect of the class based on the syllabi and discuss with a peer)
 - Establish clear expectations as identified in syllabi of both professor and student
 - Students sign syllabi as contract with professor
- **Group participation**
 - Assign groups (students will sit with group the entire semester during class)
 - Students will participate in icebreaker identifying 4 questions asked of a teammate: **name, year in college or LPC, fun fact about themselves, and what do you expect to learn in the class (all students to choose a partner in their group and share about each other) Professor should also share with students and become transparent**
 - Assign culminating group project (10 minutes to develop google doc, chat group, etc.)
- **Icebreakers**
 - Cotton Ball Game- Allow at least 6 students to volunteer or choose 6 if no one volunteers (items needed: 6 cups, cotton balls, 4 spoons)
 - Students will line up next to each other
 - The first student holds a cup with all of the cotton balls
 - Second-Fifth students hold a spoon
 - Sixth student holds an empty cup
 - The goal is for each student to transfer the cotton balls to the empty cup without using verbal communication; they have a 30 second time limit; if any balls fall to the ground they must leave them on the ground
 - You can repeat this process with an additional six students to determine if there were lessons learned from the first group
 - **Object of the game**- the value of teams and why communication is very important; correlations between differences including cultural, language barriers, all can impact communication
 - Survivors- This game is all about survival, critical thinking, ethics, and integrity. The challenge for students is identifying what the team desires over their own desires and thinking through a process for overall success.
 - The scenario: There is a plane crash and only one flotation raft was saved in the crash, however it holds 5 people and there are 7 survivors who remains in the raft? You decide based on those who survived: Pilot, scientist, marine, Pregnant woman, student, elderly man, and a child genius.
 - Allow the students at least 10-15 minutes to collaborate in their teams and come up with a rationale
 - Students will then discuss how each team came to a conclusion and utilized critical thought and teamwork to arrive at their conclusions
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- **End of day one writing assignment**

- Students are asked to now write a brief one paragraph summary about themselves and anything they want the professor to know about them that will not be share with the class. They will need to turn in this assignment as they leave class. It is more of a journaling activity for the professor to learn more about the students in the class, while allowing the student to be transparent and vulnerable increasing community in the classroom.