



Building a Community of Learners with One-Pagers

The importance of building a community of learners within your class cannot be overstated. A wealth of research continues to support the idea that when students feel a sense of social belonging in an atmosphere that projects kindness and respect, they are more motivated and engaged. In short, students' academic successes are positively influenced when they feel known and cared for. Of course, this doesn't mean that you have to become best friends with your students. That isn't what we mean at all. Rather, we encourage you to facilitate the creation of a warm and supportive classroom environment. This doesn't mean you have to be informal, just that you convey a spirit of, "We are in this learning journey together."

In previous videos we have discussed the importance of developing your teaching persona, of learning students' names, and of considering the tone set by your syllabus. These are all things that affect the feel of a classroom space. Today we are sharing another idea: Creating a one-page introduction, or one-pager.

A one-pager provides a mechanism by which you can introduce yourself to students. It can also be included as a class assignment so that students introduce themselves to you and to one another. It's nice because it works well in face-to-face, online, or hybrid courses and it's scalable. You can use this in a class of 20 or a class of 200.

For our purposes, we choose to give requirements for such an assignment simply because we want to keep it manageable and somewhat uniform. However, there is still choice within the requirements. You can decide what is important to you and use this as your guide, but we do encourage you to consider having students include their goal for the course or what they hope to learn because you can use this information to highlight the relevance of your course content.

**For this workshop we will create a one page document to help us get to know one another.
Your One-pager must meet the following requirements:**


- Your **first** and **last name** somewhere on the page
- **One headshot or "selfie"** located near your name
- **Three to five** pictures that represent who you are (e.g. personal life, family, career, hobbies, background, etc.), each with a brief caption or other accompanying informational text
- **A short statement** explaining why you are enrolled in this *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning* workshop
- **One quote** that best depicts your view about teaching and/or learning (be ready to explain why you chose that particular quote)
- Must be only **one page** in length, saved in Microsoft Word or PDF format



Here are examples of our own one-pagers.


Meet

Kristi Dickey



- 30+ years in education
- Teaching Support Specialist at ITLE
- Loves musicals, photography and the great outdoors


I never teach my pupils, I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.
 —Albert Einstein



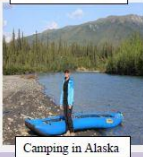
My Favorite Musical

Why am I teaching this course?

I believe that people construct knowledge based on their own experiences with the world. Our job as instructors is to provide an environment that enriches and adds to students' understandings. Teaching this course allows me the opportunity to continue constructing my own knowledge and share my passion for teaching and learning with others.




Graduation 2018



Camping in Alaska


Teaching is only demonstrating that it is possible. Learning is making it possible for yourself.
 —Paulo Coelho




Ocean Kayaking in Alaska

Gina Morris

Traveler ● Gardener ● Educator




Holding Glacial Ice



My Favorite Flowers

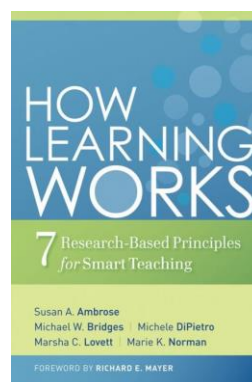
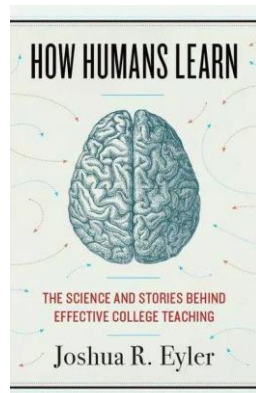
Why am I teaching this course?

The short answer is that I love teaching and learning. I am a teacher at the core of my being, and I enjoy working with others who are passionate about education. Having taught for over 30 years, I know that teaching can be both incredibly rewarding and incredibly difficult (especially when done well). My hope is that we learn from one another in order to improve our teaching practices and ultimately provide engaging learning experiences for our students.



Happiness is being at the Beach

If you would like to learn more about the importance of building a community of learners, read chapter two in the book *How Humans Learn: The Science and Stories Behind Effective College Teaching* or chapter three in the book *How Learning Works: Seven Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching*.



Both are available through the OSU library. Or, contact us at ITLE and schedule a visit!