Community

Intentionally foster learning communities that help students develop a sense of belonging, take risks, and be vulnerable. Building community requires people, purpose, guidelines, technologies, collaboration, and reflection.

# SPELL OUT EXPECTATIONS

Clearly spell out expectations for appropriate interactions and consequences for inappropriate interactions during class activities (<u>Sample Course Interaction Policy</u>). Check in via a mid-semester survey on how well the expectations are holding up.

## **CLARIFY GOOD PROTOCOL**

Clarifying good protocol – respect for others, openness to all questions, etc. – sets up sustainable interactive processes in the class.

## **CREATE ACTIVITIES**

A sense of community is vital to student engagement and follow-through, especially in courses using primarily asynchronous activities. <u>Email</u>, <u>discussion boards</u>, as well as <u>exchanged audio and video recordings</u> can be used to foster a sense of community.

### **BE MINDFUL OF PRIVACY**

Be mindful of student (and instructor) privacy while building community. Using the LMS (Collab) as the home for community building activities helps to ensure that the tools you're using have been reviewed with student data privacy in mind.

## HAVE A PLAN

Establish community-building activities for the beginning, middle, and end of semester, as well as ongoing activities. Announce and discuss community-building as a goal for the class; solicit and accept suggestions from students. Establish Group Norms Ask students to upload a two-minute video introducing themselves. Set up a social/informal discussion board area for socializing. Students interview each other and introduce their

classmates to the whole class

Return to social/informal discussion boards and **obtain feedback from students** about ideas for improvement.

Students do a **formal "check-up" interview** with the same or different classmate mid-semester.

Ask students to upload a **two-minute 'exit' video** about their experience in the course. What went well? Recommendations for improvement?



mid-

term

term

end

