

In an online class it is also particularly important to help the students know one another, to create and maintain a community of learning, online, as you would do in a physical classroom. The first step to doing so is to create an opportunity for students to be introduced to one another as you would typically do on the first day of a class. How you do so in an online environment is different, of course, but still important. Begin by inviting your students to answer a series of questions and post their responses in a chat. You may choose to have questions that are a little more formal or a little less formal, even playful or perhaps a combination. You may begin in the first week of classes asking a few questions and may continue throughout the term to invite students to respond to other questions, asks or activities. Remember you are trying with these activities to familiarize your students with one another, to build connection, and nurture relationship. These are all essential to facilitate student engagement and thus, success in an online course. Questions could be posted in a chat (this will create one text style conversation) or discussion forum (may be more difficult to follow the threads as students typically start their own thread for their intro) for students to respond to. We recommend giving students a selection of questions as idea prompts and allowing them to choose which they are comfortable sharing with the group.

Some sample questions are included below:

Questions: For students to student chat or discussion

- What is your preferred name? Nickname? Pronoun?
- What is your program of study?
- Why are you taking this course?
- What are you hoping to learn?
- What is your favorite thing about being a student at KPU?
- How many courses are you taking currently?
- Are you a full or part time student?
- What has been your favorite course so far? Why was it your favorite?
- What do you enjoy doing when you are not at school, studying or working?
- What do you plan to do when graduating?
- What is your favorite food?
- Do you work? What do you do?
- If you could work in your ideal group, what role would you have (researcher, writer, leader, listener)?
- Do you like to give presentations?
- Do you like to learn independently, in pairs, or in groups?
- How do you learn? Does your learning preference change depending on the subject (math, statistics, English, biology)?
- What is the best piece of advice you ever received?
- What was the worst piece of advice you ever received?

- What was the most interesting thing you learned recently?
- At the end of the semester, what will success in this course look like to you?
- Write a short paragraph introducing yourself to the class. Include what pronouns you'd like to use in this class.
- Interview one of your group members and introduce them to the class.
- Recall one of your best learning experiences and describe what made it so good – was it the subject, the teacher, your friends?
- Recall a bad learning experience – what would have made it better?
- What do you need from your classmates? How can you support others? For example, maybe a student only has one day a week free to work on this class, and would appreciate their group members' patience with this schedule, but they are great at finding sources and can help you out with that.
- What is your super power?
- What is your anti-super power?
- Everyone always asks about interesting facts, but what's the most boring fact about you?
- If you could design your dream course, what would it be?
- Post 3 photos/drawings/images that represent you. You don't have to be in the photos. Then write a short paragraph about why you chose these 3 images.
- Would you rather travel 100 years into the past or 100 years into the future? Why?
- If you could be any imaginary creature (unicorn, zombie, vampire, dragon, etc), what would you want to be, and why?
- What are people surprised to learn about you?
- What is one thing that's happened to you that you believe hasn't happened to anyone else in the class?
- Tell me about a time that you tried something new. How did it go?
- You get transported back in time and you have 5 minutes to talk to yourself on the first day of high school. What advice do you give yourself?
- One of: Is a hot dog a sandwich? Is cereal a soup? Do you eat or drink smoothies?