

## **INCLUSIVE TEACHING RESOURCE**

### **Inclusive Teaching Exercises**

#### **Get to know your students as individuals**

This resource is part of the **Inclusive Teaching Toolkit** which is designed to assist faculty in understanding the concepts of inclusive teaching and incorporating these ideas into your classroom. This toolkit is part of the [GWSPH DEI Initiative](#) that is being developed to respond to a societal call for social justice by changing the way GWSPH works to integrate DEI into every sphere of our work. This initiative encompasses Academics, Research, Practice, and Operations. The **Inclusive Teaching Toolkit** is one of many aspects of the Academic branch of the initiative

### **BACKGROUND**

One way to promote an inclusive classroom is to help build a classroom community and reduce anonymity between you and the student and among the students. These activities focus on student-to-professor or student-to-student interactions, but professors are also encouraged to share some personal information/anecdotes with their students as a way to help students feel connected and comfortable.

#### **Pre-Semester Questionnaire**

Send a questionnaire to your students to be completed before the semester begins. This allows you to get to know your students and provides them with an opportunity to share any confidential information they wish with you.

Sample questions:

1. What is the name under which you are registered for this class?
2. What is your preferred name/nickname?
3. What are your pronouns? For example, mine are she/her/hers (note: allowing the student to provide this information in a questionnaire may be more comfortable for students as opposed to asking them in front of the class)
4. What is something most people don't know about you?
5. What do you hope to get from this course and/or what concerns do you have about this course?
6. Where are you from? (remote version: where will you be located during the semester?)

7. Is there anything else I should know to help you succeed this semester?

Additional questions for remote learning:

8. Is there anything that you think may get in the way of your remote learning this semester (ex: intermittent wifi, sharing a room, etc.). If so, what do you need me to know about it and what can I do to help?
9. I expect all students to have a camera on during class. If you have any concerns/difficulties with having your camera on during class, please explain here and we can discuss this requirement on a case-by-case basis.

### In-Class Informal Discussions

- At the beginning of the semester and periodically throughout the semester, give students time to chat with each other to help build a classroom community. This is especially important during periods of remote learning.
- You may choose to guide the informal discussions with questions, such as:
  - If a song played when you entered the room, what song would that be?
  - If you won a million dollars, what would you do first?
  - Have them play two truths and a lie ice breaker

### In-Class Activities

Engage in class activities designed to help them get to know each other, either as a whole class or in small groups

- Explain your name. Have each student share about their name (were they given a family name? where is their name from, etc.)
- Finding Common Ground. Poll the class to help them find common ground with each other so they will feel less alone.
  - First public health class?
  - First time away from home?
  - First generation students?
  - How far from home/International student?
  - Are you bilingual?
  - Are you a parent?
  - Employment history? (Gov't, NGO, consulting, etc.)
  - Research focus?
  - Other degrees?
- Poster/Word Cloud Activity. Work as a group to create a poster or word cloud of themselves. This helps students find common interests. Put the poster/word cloud on the wall and give students time to talk with each other.
- Bingo. Create a bingo card with various identifiers (who owns a cat, who lives in a different time zone, etc.) and have them go around and find others who have that identifier until they get bingo.