

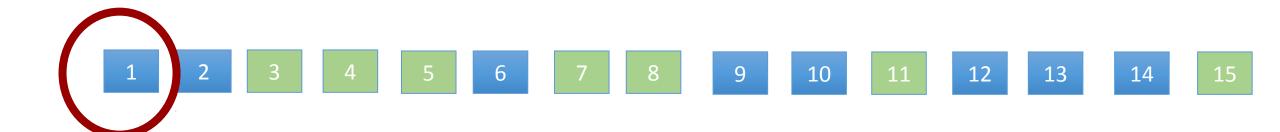
# Early Interventions: Setting the Climate through Motivation & Feedback

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# 5 Principles for Learning

- 1. Give students public opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of key course objectives.
- 2. Make performance low-stakes.
- 3. Provide guidance to all at once.
- 4. Prompt students to evaluate their own learning.
- 5. Adjust your teaching as appropriate.

# Setting the Stage: First Day



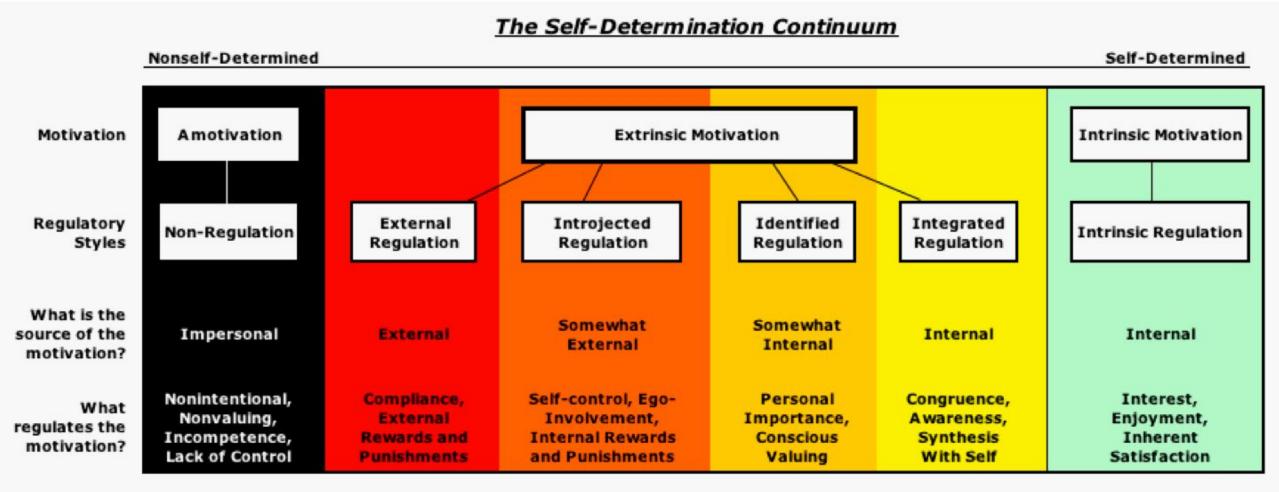
# Why does the first day matter?

# **Key Factor: Student Motivation**

#### Some Recent Research:

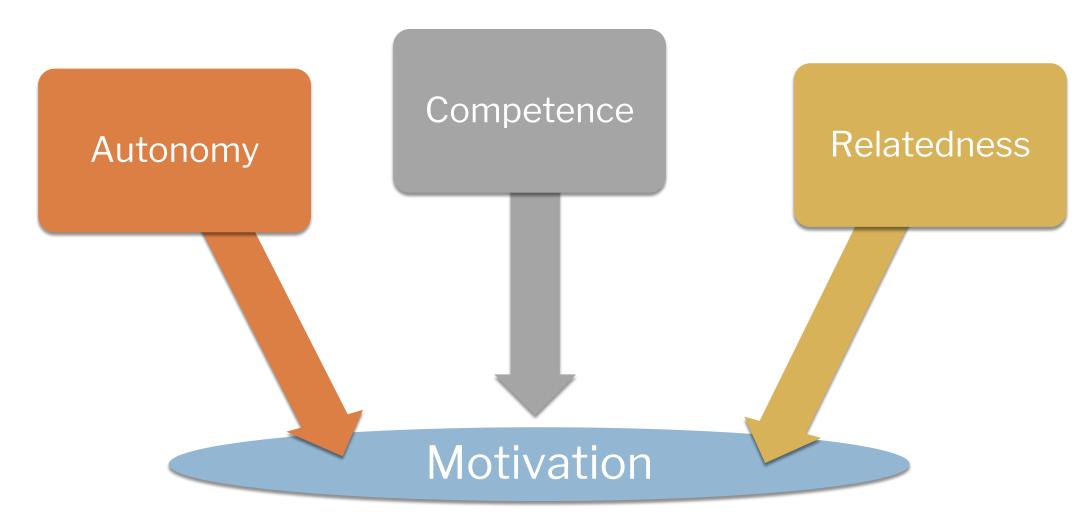
- Foster, D. A., & Hermann, A. D. (2011). Linking the First Week of Class to End-of-Term Satisfaction: Using a Reciprocal Interview Activity to Create an Active and Comfortable Classroom. *College Teaching*, 59(3), 111–116.
- Hermann, A. D., Foster, D. A., & Hardin, E. E. (2010). Does the First Week of Class Matter? A Quasi-Experimental Investigation of Student Satisfaction. *Teaching of Psychology*, 37(2), 79–84. http://doi.org/10.1080/00986281003609314
- McGinley, J. J., & Jones, B. D. (2014). A Brief Instructional Intervention to Increase Students' Motivation on the First Day of Class. *Teaching of Psychology*, 41(2), 158–162. http://doi.org/10.1177/0098628314530350
- Wilson, J. H., & Wilson, S. B. (2007). The first day of class affects student motivation: An experimental study. *Teaching of Psychology*, 34(4), 226–230.

### **Motivation Continuum**



(Based on Ryan, R.M. & Deci, E.L. (2000). Self-Determination Theory and the Facilitation of Intrinsic Motivation, Social Development, and Well-Being. American Psychologist. 55(1), 68-78.)

# To support students' motivation...



# Competence in the 1<sup>st</sup> Week

- Sense that one can effectively navigate the environment
  - "I know what is expected of me in class"
  - "I can figure out how to use the technology and resources for the course"
  - "I am intellectually capable of learning this material"
  - "I know who can help me with this course and how to get help."

# Autonomy in the 1<sup>st</sup> Week

- Sense of control within the course
  - "My actions can make a difference in the outcome"
  - "I can make important choices about what I do"
  - "I can shape my learning environment"

## Relatedness in the 1<sup>st</sup> Week

- Perception that the instructor cares
  - "Knows my name"
  - "Wants to know how to help me learn"
  - "Wants to know what interests me in the course"
- Sense of connection with peers
  - "I'm not alone in feeling..."
  - "My peers can help me learn"

## **Evidence-based Strategies**

- Getting to know the students (e.g. names, surveys)
- Emphasizing approachability (e.g. office hours)
- Modeling responsibility and citizenship, inviting diverse perspectives (e.g. syllabus, materials, co-creating rubrics)
- Active learning re: self (e.g. core values, personal goals, self-evaluation to promote metacognitive development)
- Active learning re: content (e.g. entry/exit tickets)
- Active learning re: peers (e.g. TPS, group work, peer review)
- Being intentional, explicit, direct, and transparent with students about these choices (e.g. discussion on 1<sup>st</sup> day)

# Why does the first day matter?

There is emerging evidence\* that the first day has lasting effects on students'...

- reported satisfaction
- reported motivation
- perceptions of clarity of instructor expectations
- perceptions that instructors care about students' academic success
- perceptions that instructors care about students as people

Note: No evidence that first day experience has lasting effect on students' perception of teaching effectiveness

<sup>\*</sup> Based on end of semester surveys comparing treatment & control groups

## **Setting Expectations - Transparency**

- Classroom expectations
  - Arrive on time, be ready with materials out, cell phones away
- Participation expectations
  - Asking and answering questions (particularly giving all students a chance)
  - Taking part in discussions by actively listening and responding
  - What it means to reflect on the readings, individual work, and group work
- Group or Team work expectations
  - Team members should develop clear roles and responsibilities for each of them

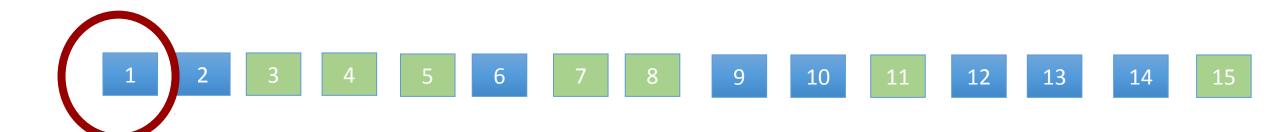
Source: Adam Moore, School of Education, University of Rhode Island.

### Possible activities

- Reciprocal Interview
- Knowledge Survey
- Syllabus Quiz
- Reflective Writing: Why are you in this class? What are your goals?
- Metacognitive Awareness Inventory

For discussion of all but first, see Nilson, Linda B. 2013. Creating Self-Regulated Learners: Strategies to Strengthen Students' Self-Awareness and Learning Skills. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.

# Setting the Stage: First Day Info Sheets: A Tool to Prompt Semester-long Inclusive Teaching



Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ My preferred First Name: Name & First name pronunciation (if desired): **Identity** The pronoun(s) I go by (if any): \_\_\_\_\_ My career goals are: \_\_\_\_\_ II. Place(s) I grew up: **Individuation** & Affirmation Something that I am good at or that makes me feel proud of myself: I live (circle): On campus / Off Campus (How do you get to campus?): \_\_\_\_\_ I work outside of school (circle): No / Yes (How many hours per week?): \_\_\_\_\_ Logistical Consideration I have reliable access to the Internet and Canvas (circle): No / Yes

	A word that describes how I feel about this class at the moment:
	Study strategies that I use to prepare for exams:
IV. Taking	I appreciate when my instructors
the Pulse	I dislike when my instructors
	One current question I have about this class is:
V.	Please use this space to privately share anything you would like your professor to know (Perhaps something that could impact or help your learning, experience,

**Connection Points** 

and/or effort in class)

# My Goals for you in this course

Build a Solid Foundation in Biological concepts Increase skills in critical thinking, data analysis, and scientific writing

Increase your interest and confidence about science

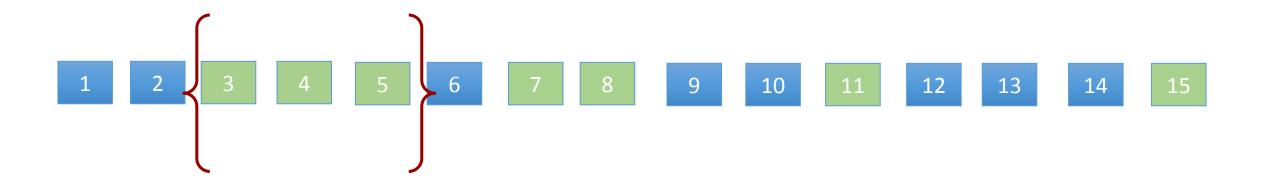
Actively collaborate to enhance your learning

# Let's get to know each other! People Bingo!

- 1.Scan to identify which criteria you fit.
- 2. Mingle and introduce yourselves.
- 3. Fill in the squares on your sheet with the name of a new classmate that fits each statement. You may write each name (including your own) in 1 square only.

	I am left-handed	I love social media	I play/played a musical instrument	I have traveled internationally
	I am not originally from Massachusetts	My body runs on Dunkin'	Pepperoni is my favorite pizza topping	I am the youngest child in my family
	I have milked a cow	I am allergic to something	I am/was on a school athletic team	I am fluent in a language besides English
r	I love big cities	I am a transfer student	I have broken a bone	Breakfast is my favorite meal of the day
	I am <u>not</u> a morning person	I love the beach.	I have celebrated Halloween in Salem	I hate going to the dentist
	I'm a cat person	I have a tattoo	I went to see a movie over break	I am <u>not</u> a Patriots fan

# Gathering Feedback



#### Why gather feedback?

 To gather information during the semester when you still have time to make changes designed to have an immediate impact on student learning.

2. Research demonstrates that using midterm feedback enhances student learning and motivation, as well as end-of-term student ratings (Davis, 2009).

Feedback can help both you and your students!

## Step 1: Think about your priorities

What do you need to know to inform how you teach (and how your students learn) for the remainder of the the course?

- Do students value the group work they do in class?
- Do students believe the pre-class quizzes help them prepare for class or understand the textbook reading?
- Are students getting enough feedback on the problem-sets they do as homework?
- What do students think are the most important things they have learned in class so far?

# Step 2: Determine when and how to gather feedback

When: During class session or as homework?

When: Are students prepared to give the feedback you seek?

How: Individual, small group, and/or whole class responses?

How: Qualitative, quantitative, or both?

How: Hand-written, online, or oral?



Sweet Spot: ¼ or ⅓ Semester Muddiest Point Stop-Start-Continue

Stop-Start-Continue Group Feedback

**Muddiest Point** 

Final Eval: Specific
Question about small
change made in
response to earlier
feedback prompt

# For example: Gathering feedback from groups

Have small groups do a "Stop – Start – Continue" or similar exercise.

OR

Meet with representatives from student groups to discuss the class.

OR

Ask your teaching center to conduct a midterm focus group.

# For example: Gathering feedback from groups

# Ask your teaching center to conduct a midterm focus group. Examples of questions to ask in this:

- 1. What is really working for you that helps you learn in this course?
- 2. What improvements could be make in the course?
- 3. What can students do to improve their learning in the course?

# For example: End of class, written, individual

Muddiest Point: "What was the muddiest/most unclear/most confusing point in [the lecture, discussion, homework assignment, film, etc.]?"

OR

Stop – Start – Continue

OR

What's most helping you learn? What could be changed so you learn more?

# For example: Out of class, online, individual

		Never			Αlν	ways	
1.	I come to class prepared to learn.	1	2	3	4	5	
2.	In-class activities help me learn.	1	2	3	4	5	
3.	The instructor's lectures help me learn.	1	2	3	4	5	
4.	The assigned homework helps me learn.	1	2	3	4	5	
5.	The instructor treats students with respe	ect. 1	2	3	4	5	

### What to do with this feedback

Carefully consider what students are (and are not) telling you

- Pay more attention to patterns than isolated comments
- Focus first on what is going well
- Think about both short- and long-term changes (Now, Next, Never)
- Remember your goals and your own experiences in the class

Plan and make a few changes in response to their feedback

Let students know (quickly) what changes you will (and will not) make, and why

## References and resources

Davis, B. G. *Tools for Teaching* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Jossey-Bass, 2009).

Helpful overviews with embedded resources:

- https://facultyinnovate.utexas.edu/teaching/professional-development/assess-teaching/mid-semester-feedback
- https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/student-feedback/
- http://assessment.georgetown.edu/courselevel/gather-evidence-of-student-learning/classroom-assessment-techniques/

Helpful quantitative prompts:

http://teaching.uncc.edu/learning-resources/articles-books/best-practice/assessmen t-grading/mid-semester-evaluation