

# Playing to your Strengths As An Instructor

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Kingsborough Center for e-Learning (KCeL)

# Lisa

<b>1. Name and describe your favorite activity you commonly use to engage students in your classes.</b>	<b>2. Why do you use this activity? In other words, what do you want your students to learn by doing the activity?</b>
Building Bridges--At the start of each class I ask students to build me a bridge (of content, questions, inspirations) from the previous class or classes.	It's my hope they are better able to identify main ideas and make connections across classes. I also get a sense of what stood out for them and what questions may still remain.

## Ideas on how to conducted the activity in an online environment:

- Provide a prompt to build bridge.
- Use interactive tools in bb- wiki blog tool; students can have individual blogs; learning modules feature. If you use a journal, the student and instructor see it
- Use polling feature in bb
- Think about the frequency you want to conduct this activity so that your grading is not overwhelming Forming groups might be helpful.

# Michelle

<b>1. Name and describe your favorite activity you commonly use to engage students in your classes.</b>	<b>2. Why do you use this activity? In other words, what do you want your students to learn by doing the activity?</b>
A play between authors. I ask my students to write a play, where authors of texts we've read, are in dialogue. We choose 4 of the stronger plays to act out in class. Each student is assigned to a group and together they collaborate on producing, rehearsing, and acting out the play. The writer of the play is usually the director.	The play writing portion gives students a chance to actualize and embody authors' perspectives and viewpoints based on text. They also practice quoting, paraphrasing, citing, and questioning, so claims are really grounded in what they learn from the texts, and so they can justify their thinking. When students act out the plays and hear the dialogues live, they get a chance to see strong examples and learn from their peers.

## Ideas on how to conducted the activity in an online environment:

- Group work for planning and then video.
- The purpose of the activity is actually quoting and paraphrasing, not a larger capstone experience
- Peermark tool
- Group feature in BB. Students work in groups ad then create a series of still photos reflecting

# William

<b>1. Name and describe your favorite activity you commonly use to engage students in your classes.</b>	<b>2. Why do you use this activity? In other words, what do you want your students to learn by doing the activity?</b>
Brainstorming on an open-ended question	I want them to explore problems and questions collaboratively, compared their own responses to different perspectives from other students.

## Ideas on how to conducted the activity in an online environment:

- Discussion forum
- assign roles so that the activity is structured
- wiki that addresses why scientists come up with the questions they do

# Irina

<b>1. Name and describe your favorite activity you commonly use to engage students in your classes.</b>	<b>2. Why do you use this activity? In other words, what do you want your students to learn by doing the activity?</b>
Charades	Review vocab, class participation, group and individual participation/discussion/involvement.

Ideas on how to conducted the activity in an online environment:

- Look at images and respond to those.
- Post a drawing or photo they take and have students discuss

# Elizabeth & Janine

<b>1. Name and describe your favorite activity you commonly use to engage students in your classes.</b>	<b>2. Why do you use this activity? In other words, what do you want your students to learn by doing the activity?</b>
Group discussion with questions that connect to both the students and to the topic  Open discussions	It gets students to interact, engages their prior knowledge, motivates them and gets them thinking about the topic.  To be able to learn more deeply through interaction - seeing different views and exploring content more thoroughly

## Ideas on how to conducted the activity in an online environment:

- Course blog rather than individual blog.
- Have students facilitate discussion;
- Wiki vs. Blog: wiki- a collaborative space for adding and editing content.
- Blog- like a private diary that people can comment rather than reply like in a discussion

# Odellya & Mario

<b>1. Name and describe your favorite activity you commonly use to engage students in your classes.</b>	<b>2. Why do you use this activity? In other words, what do you want your students to learn by doing the activity?</b>
Yoga  Qi Jong Movements	We build our cardiovascular ability, stronger and leaner muscle, stretch our muscles and joints out, have a fitness party, and upon retreating onto the mat, find solidarity in solitude and a physical (even spiritual depending on the intensity) relaxation and grounding. It's for a healthy mind and a healthy heart.  To be fully present

## Ideas on how to conducted the activity in an online environment

- Synchronous sessions;
- images of poses; image and then reflection of what the pose felt like;
- give instructions on how to do the movement and ask them to write about it. Blog will create sense of ownership /authorship, possibly woven in as a weekly activity.