



Welcome to UVM!

We're glad you're joining this  
community of teacher-scholars.



# **Welcoming Students and Finding Your Colleagues: Starting the Semester with Connection**

Presented by

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## Today's session

- An inclusive first day of class
  - Icebreakers
  - Welcoming syllabus
  - Connection tools
- Introduction to campus resources for teaching

We hope you'll  
leave with:

- A few immediately useful tips
- Awareness of resources for your teaching
- The beginning of your own teaching network





# Small Steps for Inclusive Teaching: Icebreakers

*Why? Low-prep activities set a welcoming tone, connect you and the students, and create a sense of belonging*

Early on, icebreakers are useful for

- Introductions
- Revealing interests or questions
- Syllabus conversations

.



If you use icebreakers, what's your favorite?

If you don't use icebreakers, what questions or concerns do you have?





# Small Steps: A Welcoming Syllabus

*Why? The syllabus has documented effects on students' perception of belonging and engagement.*

1. Focus on what students will learn (rather than listing content)
2. Explain "why take this course?" or "why should you care about X?"
3. Humanize yourself
4. Use a warm tone
5. Signal that equity matters
6. Share supports + resources for students to communicate attention + care (we'll share language you can use)



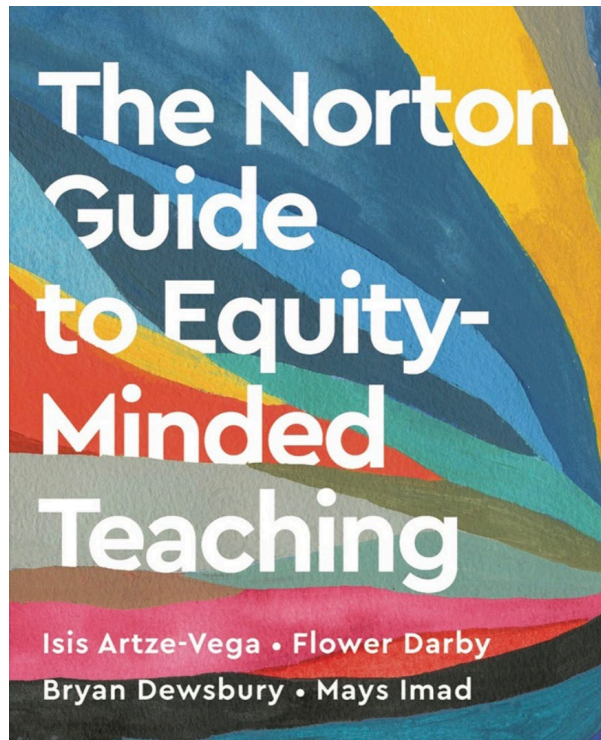
## Small Steps: Connecting Early

*Why? Showing that you care about students' success and learning increases engagement and sense of belonging, which lead to more equitable outcomes.*

- Learn more about your students individually and collectively, via small assignments, surveys, or activities
- Share your own connection to the course/field
- Get students to form some connections/recognition



Read on your own, or  
with colleagues in the CTL's Fall Reading Group!







# Center for Teaching and Learning

- We help with instructional technology, pedagogy, active learning, Universal Design for Learning, inclusive pedagogy and more...
- Join us for workshops or personalized consultations!
  - Email [ctl@uvm.edu](mailto:ctl@uvm.edu)
  - See the CTL/WID events calendar ([www.uvm.edu/ctl/events](http://www.uvm.edu/ctl/events))

Connect with us at the resource fair on Tuesday!



## UVM Libraries

- We can help you plan assignments; visit your class to work with your students; and more.
- Contact us to schedule workshops or research consultations!
  - Find your subject librarian  
([library.uvm.edu/about/staff/specialist](https://library.uvm.edu/about/staff/specialist))
  - No librarian for your subject? Contact Daisy Benson about teaching issues & course support



# Office of Community-Engaged Learning (CELO)

- Specialized office supporting faculty who incorporate work with community partners into their courses (service-learning)
- Reach out for workshops, consultation and resources
  - Email [celo@uvm.edu](mailto:celo@uvm.edu)
  - See [www.uvm.edu/celo](http://www.uvm.edu/celo) for upcoming events + opportunities

Connect with us at the resource fair on Tuesday!





# Writing in the Disciplines

- We support
  - Instructors as writing teachers (even if you don't think you teach writing!)
  - Instructors as writers
- Join us for workshops, writing groups, or personalized consultations!
  - Email [wid@uvm.edu](mailto:wid@uvm.edu)
  - See the CTL/WID events calendar ([www.uvm.edu/ctl/events](http://www.uvm.edu/ctl/events))

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# We're here for you!

- Connect with us at the resource fair on Tuesday!
- Join us for workshops or personalized consultations!
  - Email [ctl@uvm.edu](mailto:ctl@uvm.edu) or [wid@uvm.edu](mailto:wid@uvm.edu) or [celo@uvm.edu](mailto:celo@uvm.edu)
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  - Find your subject librarian ([library.uvm.edu/about/staff/specialist](http://library.uvm.edu/about/staff/specialist))