TA TIP SHEETS

TEACHING ASSISTANT’S Guide to How to Create Community in your Classroom

The list represents what a group of experienced TAs at UVic have identified as important aspects of how TAs’ can build community in their classroom. Not all suggestions below may be applicable in all departments on campus. Please use the list as a guide only.

Some suggestions:

- Really try and learn everyone’s name. How?
  - Draw caricatures of your TAs – cartoons
  - Take photos, put on computer with student name, and repeat cycle continuously until you know their name
  - Say their name when you speak to them to help remember – the three times rule
  - Have a seating plan
  - Construct tent cards for each student with their name in front of them
  - However, you also need to know how to practice without using names in case you forget and you want to be polite
- Candy always works!
- Cartoons and media, integrate relevant popular media when appropriate
- Set up discussion groups online
- Find out what the group has in common and integrate into lessons
- Incorporate icebreakers at the beginning of most classes
- Group work allows students to create their own small community in class
- Share your research with students, it helps involve them with the you and the material

The following list was developed during the Teaching Assistant Consultants’ (TACs) seminars for the academic year, 2009-2010.