



NOTEPAD

First Year Educator

August 15, 2011

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CEO Reminders

CALENDARS

Course Calendar Note: The Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness will administer two surveys during the first two weeks of class to all freshmen in the Transition classes - to see when your class has been scheduled, click the link "Course Calendar for Survey Schedule" on [this page](#).

Student Life Calendar: For a complete listing of what's going on for students from intramurals, to concerts and lectures, to organizations, arts and culture, [and so much more....](#)

Events Calendar: For detailed information on the arts and culture scene at WCU - plays, concerts, art exhibits, films, [and more...](#)

EVENTS



The Global Poverty Project presentation of "Rise Out"

September 7th at 7:00 pm in the Bardo Arts Center, discover 1.4 Billion reasons to end poverty - help your students make a difference as they connect course work to service learning and to this campus-wide interdisciplinary year-long examination. To learn more, visit the [WCU Poverty Project website](#).

The Red Zone: The 'Red Zone' refers to the period of time early in the first or second year at college during which students are more at-risk of unwanted sexual experiences on college campuses. To combat this, throughout this period, departments from across Western Carolina University sponsor programming to increase awareness of dating and sexual violence. For more information and a full list of events, speakers, and activities, [visit this website](#).



OPPORTUNITIES

Western Carolina PEAKS : Are you looking for ideas to connect your students with their new home and environment? Are you looking for innovative ways to connect curricular with co-curricular opportunities? Residential programming can reinforce course goals, connecting the classroom to the living room conversation. And you can also do a guest spot in the halls---share something different with students - it could be related to your teaching expertise --- or not. For more information, contact Stephanie Sue Helmers, Academic Initiatives Office (154 Balsam Hall – ext. 3493) in Residential Living.

TOOLBOX

Breaking the ice...

This week's teaching idea is courtesy of Laura Cruz, Director of the [Coulter Faculty Commons](#).

Students new to college classrooms can be unaccustomed to collaborative environments. This icebreaker can be one way to help them get used to asking questions of each other and to think about what makes a good question.

- Step 1: Choose a list of names, ideas, events, or concepts that fit well with your course content. You will need as many items on the list as you students.
- Step 2: Write each item on a separate small sheet of paper. Sticky notes work especially well, but so do index cards.
- Step 3: When the students come into class, tape or stick the item to their backs.
- Step 4: Tell the students that they can't look at the word stuck to their backs. Instead, they have to ask another student a yes or no question to help them figure out the word. They can only ask one student one question. In other words, once they ask another student a question, they will have to move on to another student to ask a second question. Watch how long it takes for them to figure out the word on their backs.
- Step 5 (optional): If yes/no questions don't get anyone or everyone to figuring out the solution, tell the students that they can change the rules of the game. What type of question (besides what am I?) do they think would work to help them guess their item? Some possible types of questions: key word (where the other person supplies a key word), w-questions (who, where, when, etc.), or even guess the letter. They then continue the exercise until everyone has guessed their person/item/idea/event.

I did this exercise in my eighteenth-century European history class using famous figures from the time. In addition to getting the students used to talking to each other, it also helped me to learn how much they already knew about some of the important people from the era. It seems like a fun variation could be done using WCU words and/or people, such as Catamount, Scott Hall, Memorial Drive, Chancellor Belcher, etc.

The CORE

The Transitions Commons: Are you interested to connect a learning project with another course or perhaps to share a guest lecture, being mindful that our experts are in high demand with over 50 freshman transition classes. [Click this link](#) to see which classes with whom you share time.

Health and Wellness is absolutely critical as our new students transition into WCU. They will be learning how to live on their own without parents to remind them to eat a balanced diet, get enough rest and exercise, and balance priorities. Guide your students to the resources that will get them off on their best foot. Explore the Wellness Scavenger Hunt, sponsored by the Campus Recreation Center - prepackaged and managed for you - all you need to do is to contact them! [For more details, see page 4 of their newsletter](#) The CRC also offers peer presentations, fitness activities and tours of the facility; go to their [website](#) and click Presentations & Classes to submit a request.

MHC- Mountain Heritage Center: Help your students embrace their new community here at WCU - the MHC will provide special programs and tours for your class, introducing them to the rich history of Western, as well as to the culture and history of this wonderful region. [For more information.....](#)

FAMILY TABLE

Retreat: This summer we enjoyed learning and fellowship, sharing ideas and sparking the imagination. At the end of the day, it is crystal clear - we First-year Educators (my new twist on FYE) are a special group of colleagues. We share the wonderful privilege and immense responsibility as we welcome students to their journey into higher education. We enjoy an opportunity to work as a cohort with colleagues from across the university and beyond traditional discipline gates as we engage teaching and learning with common purpose --- that students emerge from their freshman year with a successful educational and personal experience that will ground the second year as they continue on their journey. *So glad you are part of the FY Family!*

RESOURCE FILE

[Blackboard](#) --- reference and participate in the Transition Pathways Course site....

[CFC on the Web](#) --- help with teaching, technology, and more--- helping you do what you do better!

[FYE on the Web](#) --- many resources and network links to help you along the way

[QEP on the Web](#) --- discover the possibilities - find the resources you need - find your path.....