Tips for Engaging Students in Class Discussions

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Let’s Discuss Lists
3 Views of Lists

"We will acknowledge up front that our contemporary fetish for making lists can, potentially, denigrate and trivialize those very things we choose to list." – Dr. Robert Greenberg

"The list doesn’t destroy culture; it creates it. Wherever you look in cultural history, you will find lists. In fact, there is a dizzying array: lists of saints, armies and medicinal plants, or of treasures and book titles. Think of the nature collections of the 16th century." – Umberto Eco

“It’s a matter of how you use them. They can give you control in a certain way, but you don’t want them to be the only thing you do to gain control.” – Dr. Cynthia Green
How do I love lists? Let me count the ways....

- Lists are concrete
  - They transform abstract, oral discussions into visual, tangible, written form

- Lists help order and focus a discussion

- Lists help students more easily process and recall information precisely because they provide order and concreteness
More to Love about Lists

- Lists lend themselves to collaboration
  - Have students collectively generate the list rather than providing it for them.

- Lists can be creative
  - They are acts of creation that can foster creative thinking

- Collaborative lists can create insights
  - Into the students’ thoughts and thought-process
  - Into the broader culture from which students draw ideas
Typical Student List of Founders

- George Washington
- John Adams
- Thomas Jefferson
- James Madison
- Benjamin Franklin
- Samuel Adams
Lists are familiar and entertaining!

Top 10 List of Pet Peeves Dogs have about their owners!
Next CTL EVENT

Tips for Engaging Students in Online Discussions

Tuesday, March 24, 2015
Professors Lynn Bowes-Sperry and Stacie Chapell

Reception 3:30 p.m.
Presentation 4:00 p.m.
Bears Dean