

## Strategy: Building Classroom Community

Developing a sense of community in the classroom is directly related to student engagement (learning and motivation). Weaving community-building approaches through courses of all sizes and formats will have positive results.

## Origin

University of West Florida. (2011). Building community in class. Retrieved from [http://uwf.edu/cutla/building\\_community\\_in\\_the\\_class.cfm](http://uwf.edu/cutla/building_community_in_the_class.cfm).

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Bart, M. (2011). Tips for creating a participatory classroom environment. Retrieved from <http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-and-learning/tips-for-creating-a-participatory-classroom-environment/>.

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## Application

### Use Greeters

Assign students to arrive early and serve as greeters for the class. These students should greet students who arrive, introducing themselves and welcoming students to class. Students can use this opportunity to learn each other's names and faces and facilitate the development of a greater sense of community in the classroom.

### Con-Venn-Tions

Involving everyone in class discussion through pairs or groups supports class community. This activity asks individuals to write the 5-8 most significant points from the reading, assignment, topic, etc., on individual index cards, pieces of paper, etc. When students are done, they share and organize their ideas, sorting them into piles by unique student ideas and shared student ideas. Depending on the number of students in the group, they develop a Venn diagram of their ideas to demonstrate their individual and group knowledge.

### Deck of Cards Assignment

As students arrive for class, give them each a card. When class begins, have students find other students with the same card (e.g., all of the fours, kings, etc). Once students find their groups, assign them an introductory question related to your topic for the day and group roles: Diamond is the Leader, Spade is the Note Taker, Heart is the Reporter, and Club is the Moderator and Time Manager.

