



# Any Questions? Getting Students to Talk

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What are your goals?

- Begin at the end
- Backward design (Wiggins and McTiege 1998; Fink 2003)

Philosophical question

- What is our goal as instructors?
- Push students beyond their comfort zone? “Class participation” or “engagement”?
- Develop skills in public speaking
- Do students have the right to remain silent?
- Your thoughts?

You only have one chance to make a first impression: the importance of day 1

- Dorn (1987)
- Other first-day strategies

Possible strategies

- Breaking the Ice in each class period
- Incentivizing participation (Ridzi technique)
- Think-Pair-Share
- Small groups
- Assigning role of spokesperson
- Other?

Never ask a question for which there is a right/wrong answer

- Unknown faculty member at the U of M during graduate school teacher training
- Defining roles: sage-on-the-stage and lecture/“discussion” or facilitating discussion?
- Moving targets: too easy/too hard/too dorky?

Developing a community of learning

- Chin et al (2014)

## Bibliography

- Chin, Jeffrey, Matthew May, Honora Sullivan-Chin and Kaylyn Woodrick. 2014. "How Can Social Psychology and Group Dynamics Assist in Curriculum Development?" *Teaching Sociology* 42(2):86-94.doi: 10.1177/0092055X14521023
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- Wiggins, Grant and Jay McTieghe. 1998. *Understanding by Design*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.