

UNIQUE IDEAS

- Have the students write a letter home or to someone that has influenced their life and thank them for that. Usually done before Thanksgiving Break. Instructor provides envelopes and postage (can be reimbursed).

Like this idea? Need more information? Contact Matt Shaul.

- Hand-pick Greek Life upperclassmen and independent upperclassmen to speak frankly to the freshmen. Not just about rushing and pledging, but also about Student Life on campus in general.

Like this idea? Need more information? Contact Gary Golden.

- In conjunction with the “Muskingum College” common reading, have the class compile and caption a “Muskingum University” picture book.

Like this idea? Need more information? Contact Lois Zook-Gerdau.

- Have students buy presents for “Christmas on Campus” program or “Operation Christmas Child” and have a “wrap up” party as the last class to wrap the gifts and have pizza party.

Like this idea? Need more information? Contact Lois Zook-Gerdau or Jean Morris.

- Assign students to present chapters of the “College Study” book to engage the whole class. Assign them to present in groups of 2.

Like this idea? Need more information? Contact Lois Zook-Gerdau.

- At the end of the class period, hand out discussion questions/topics for the next day’s discussion. Have the students write a short response to the discussion questions/topics. Students that don’t normally participate in class discussion can then refer to these responses when called on in class. Responses are collected at the end of class period and graded as part of class participation points.

Like this idea? Need more information? Contact Eric Schurter.

- Have a Sundae Bar during class around Halloween. Instructor can bring ice cream and toppings or have the students bring in their favorite toppings to share. Decorate little pumpkins. Have the students dress up in costume for extra credit.

- Have the students do the Student Leadership Practices Inventory and then talk about their leadership qualities and involvement on campus. Find out what they want to get involved in and guide them on whom to contact.

Like this idea? Need more information? Contact Rebecca Delo or Jackie Vascura.

- For a final exam, have the student turn in a Personal Portfolio of organized copies of Add/Drop forms, schedules, Major Declaration form, Internship proposals, etc. This way the students have the forms on hand when needed.

Like this idea? Need more information? Contact Lisa Marshall.

Talk to the students about Room Draw, Rush, Fall registration and other Spring Activities to prepare them for the next semester when you will not be meeting as a class.

- Have each student select a Major to “investigate” at the Majors Fair. Each student gathers information about this Major and presents findings to the class after the Majors Fair.

Like this idea? Need more information? Contact Lisa Marshall.

- Encourage students to attend a wide array of university sponsored campus events. Some of which they would probably attend anyway, for others it may be stretch or getting them out of their comfort zone.
 - ✓ A film
 - ✓ Cultural event
 - ✓ Musical concert
 - ✓ Art exhibit
 - ✓ Chapel service
 - ✓ Athletic event
 - ✓ Centerboard event
 - ✓ The Fall play

Students turn in an index card stating what they attended, on what date and get someone's signature stating that they attended. Students are encouraged to go with someone else in the FYS class.

Like this idea? Need more information about this? Contact Peter Gosnell.

- Have students keep a scrapbook or portfolio notebook representing their first semester of college. Items could include:
 - ✓ movie ticket stubs
 - ✓ notes from their RA or roommate
 - ✓ empty popcorn bag from a sporting event
 - ✓ receipt from late night trips to Wal-Mart
 - ✓ wrapper from their favorite snacks
 - ✓ notes from mom or dad or professors

Items collected must be PG-13 rated and from an experience related to Muskingum, New Concord or a local town. Instructors keep these notebooks until the students' senior year at which point they are handed back so they can reminisce about their first semester at college.

Like this idea? Need more information? Contact Emily Smith.

- Instructor sends letter home asking mom or dad to write a letter/note card of encouragement back to student before final exams. Can include postage-paid envelope for mom and dad.

Like this idea? Need more information? Contact Kristine Pray.

- Take 10 minutes at the start of each class period and ask "tell me something good." Go around the room and each student has to tell the class something good or positive going on in their life. It could be academic related or personal; as long as it's positive!
- After each guest speaker comes to class, select 3 students out of a hat to write Thank You notes to the speaker. Students can earn points and feel pretty good about writing them.

Like this idea? Need more information? Contact Mary Beth Caudill.

- Muskie Sports Trivia Challenge. Break the class into teams of 3 or 4 students. Have 3 rounds of trivia questions, round 1 being the easiest. Students can use the student mentor as a lifeline.
 - For MU sports trivia questions and rules, contact Tom Caudill.

Do you want to share your unique FYS idea? Contact ejsmith@muskingum.edu with a brief description!