

## Building Community Online: Post a First-Day Message

In addition to a more traditional overview of the course syllabus and student expectations, post a first-day message designed to pique students' interest including how the knowledge and skills they will gain in the course will help them in future courses or in a future career. Be sure to let students know that you care about their success, how you intend to support them in the course, and how you plan to ensure the course is engaging. You might even introduce one of the core concepts or a teaching practice you might regularly use in the course to get students thinking and learning on day one. Here is an example:

*Welcome to Qualitative Research Methods 111! My name is Dr. Sandra Smith, and I will be your instructor for the course. I love qualitative research, because it provides an important lens through which to explore and create understanding about all aspects of human existence. Qualitative research can focus on the experiences of individuals, groups, organizations, or larger communities. The purpose of this course is to familiarize you with and give you a chance to practice different qualitative research methods to answer questions that are of interest to you.*

*This course takes place 100% online. It is designed to keep everyone moving along together as a group and to give each person the flexibility to do the work when it is most convenient for them. There are 12 modules in the course, and each module consists of a variety of activities, readings, discussions, and assignments. You will have a few days to complete each part of each module's activities, which will make more sense after you complete the orientation module and syllabus activities. The orientation module will also give you a chance to get to know each other better. So, without further ado, please click the "next" button to start the orientation. You'll probably need less than an hour to watch the course navigation video, review the syllabus, do the syllabus scavenger hunt, and post your introduction. But you will need to return to the introduction discussion board later to meet and greet your classmates.*

*I look forward to getting to know you and exploring interesting questions with you!*