

Ice Breakers for Remote Instruction

People are craving connection with their classmates and their instructors. It may seem trivial, but giving everyone a chance to connect could make a huge positive impact for everyone in class. Here are some examples of ice breakers you could use, either in synchronous or asynchronous classes.

- Asking everyone in class to share something that's helping them during social distancing
- Using the polling feature on Zoom to get your students' take on a reading, assignment, discussion, or other part of the class
- Asking your students to post their favourite meme of the moment on a shared discussion board or messaging thread (with a reminder to keep it classroom appropriate)
- Prompting your students to describe themselves in 3 GIFs and post them on a shared discussion board or messaging thread
- Asking them what their TV/movie binge of the moment is and to share a three sentence summary for the class
- Giving everyone an exercise to find a photo on their phone that's especially meaningful to them (that they're willing to share) and tell the class about it
- Posing the question: "what is your go-to snack when studying at home?"
- Prompting reflection, ask your students to name a rose (something they liked about the week), thorn (something they didn't), and bud (something they're excited about)
- Encouraging students to share their self-care selfies on a shared discussion board or messaging thread
- Asking everyone to share or describe their favourite emoji to use