

CELT Newsletter: September 2020

Dear CELT Colleagues:

Welcome back! After an exhausting spring, I hope you had a chance to recharge over the summer and prepare for our busy fall semester. While we wish we are all able to be together in person, the opportunity to think about how we teach and how we can re-invent our pedagogical approaches is very exciting! This year, CELT is continuing our conversations about what works in the classroom. Whether you are teaching an Online, Remote Live, or Hybrid course, CELT has workshops to support your teaching. We want to hear your ideas and *Best Practices*. What has worked for you in your virtual classroom? What new technology did you discover that has helped your students learn? Join our many workshops to learn new pedagogical approaches and strategies to engage your students in a virtual environment. As faculty, we are creative, empathetic, and resilient and we can help our students learn successfully! CELT is here for you, please reach out if you need help. We wish everyone a successful start to the semester and hope you remain safe and healthy! Be well, Susan

Register for all of our CELT Workshops on [Eventbrite](#) on the [CELT Website](#)

To help us keep track of attendance and facilitate sending links to registered faculty, please sign up in advance on [Eventbrite](#) to join us! We will send a zoom link to all registrants. If you have any last-minute problems or questions, email: saltman@middlesexcc.edu

Join us for our CELT Professional Day on September 1 starting at 11:00 a.m.

Join CELT for our opening event at 11:00 a.m. on September 1 with a student panel to hear directly from students what works for them! We will open the event by trying a new technology, **Slido**. Please download the app to your phone, or you can access it through your browser at [Sli.do](#) during the event so we can try it out! There will be workshops throughout the day on September 1, and even more workshops on September 2 & 3. Please [register](#) in advance to receive the zoom links as some workshops have limited capacity.

Join us at our CELT Virtual Open House on Thursday, September 10

Join your MCC colleagues at our CELT Virtual Open House! Let's start the year with conversations, camaraderie and rotating breakout rooms to chat with colleagues. Please sign up on [Eventbrite](#) to join us!



Upcoming Events

September 1: CELT Professional Day followed by workshops on September 2 and September 3

September 10: CELT Open House

September 17: Using Perusall to Create a Social Presence and Invigorate Learning

September 22: Building Community Online: Ideas to Engage and Retain Students

Helpful Articles

Want to create better *Breakout Room* discussions? Consider creating a [collaborative document](#) to help students engage in more meaningful discussions.

Are your students doing research? Help your Students develop their [Digital Content Curation Skills](#).

Need more ideas for the First Day of Class? [A Four Step plan for the First Day](#) on Zoom.

CELT Events for September: September 17 and September 22

Join CELT for our September Technology and SOTL Sessions.

Thursday, September 17 at 2 p.m. **Using Perusall to Create a Social Presence and Invigorate Learning** Crystal Quillen

Social reading or note-sharing has recently become popular amongst the undergraduate population, so much so, that software has been created to help students learn in a more practical way. Programs such as PIVOT, Diigo, and Perusall have been shown to not only enhance student preparation and learning, but also increase a sense of community within the classroom. Using outcomes from Psychology as an example, we'll discuss the benefits of Perusall and how to implement it in your course whether your students are meeting face-to-face, online, or remote live.

Tuesday, September 22 at 2 p.m. **Building Community Online: Ideas to Engage and Retain Students** Celia Winchester

When educators teach online, they sometimes can feel disconnected from their students. Research shows that when online students feel connected to their instructor and class, they are less likely to engage in attrition. This presentation will demonstrate several methods and tools which you can utilize to create community and rapport with your students.

Ideas for Pedagogy for the Start of the Semester

Create a sense of community in your Zoom Classroom You may want to consider opening your Zoom classroom 10-15 minutes before the start of your class to chat, build a sense of community, and get to know your students in a more informal way. You can also stay a few minutes after class to answer questions and create connections with your students.

Use an Icebreaker on the first day of class Icebreakers help your students feel part of the community and be comfortable in your classroom. Many traditional icebreakers can be transferred to remote learning by using breakout rooms, the chat feature and polling. Breakout rooms and polling can be added to your account in Zoom Settings.

Think of multiple ways to present information Research shows that students learn in many different ways. Consider presenting content using multiple modalities to engage all of your students.

Universal Design and Accessibility Universal Design helps all learners and should be a priority in your class. Posting a narrated PowerPoint in Canvas Studio? Please add captioning to your videos. Studio will caption your narration, but you will need to edit it for accuracy. You should also add Alt-text to your Canvas images so they can be read by Screenreaders. For more information: udloncampus.cast.org/home



Do you want to present a workshop to your MCC Colleagues?

Do you have an idea that is working for your remote course that you can share? CELT welcomes your workshop ideas. Please email us with your proposals.

The MCC Food Pantry and MCC Emergency Fund

MCC is raising money for students to help with their basic needs. If you can help, please donate [here](#). Thank you for your generosity and support.

Resources for Student Academic Support

The [Library Services Department](#), comprised of the Library and Learning Center Tutoring/Writing Center has resources to help support your students. Please contact the library if you have any questions or need help.

More Pedagogy to Engage Remote Learners in your Class

Two-Minute Break Caitlin Bergendahl and Tiffany Freitas from Virginia Commonwealth University recommend incorporating a **Two-Minute Break**. During a **Two-Minute Break**, students write down one thing to let go of, one thing they are grateful for, and three things they will focus on that day. This helps students establish clear goals and accomplish them.

Muddiest Point The “Muddiest Point” help you assess where students are having difficulties. Using the chat feature, ask students to write down the point that is still most confusing to them (it can be private). You can also use *Polls* in Zoom to ask a question to assess their understanding.

Audio Feedback Research shows that timely and targeted feedback is important to support learners in an online class. A useful feature of Canvas Gradebook is the ability to leave audio feedback for your students on their assignments. Students respond to hearing your comments and will often comment back!

Resources for Equity, Racial, and Social Justice Teaching

CELT is collaborating with Student Life and Library Services for a book club to read *How to Be An Antiracist* by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. Please join Student Activities for their **TedTalk Tuesday** on September 15 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. to watch Dr. Kendi’s TedTalk. After the event, students, faculty and staff will be able to sign up for one of the many groups that will meet at different times throughout the semester and into the spring.

The MCC Library has a LibGuide for [Anti-Racism Resources](#) with numerous references and scholarly articles. Another good place to start learning ways to incorporate social justice teaching into your course is [Teaching Tolerance](#). While some of this is geared towards K-12 education, there are a lot of good ideas that can be used in higher education.

The Center for Teaching at Vanderbilt University has resources for [Teaching Race: Pedagogy and Practice](#). The Poorvu Center for Teaching at Yale University also has numerous resources for [Diversity and Inclusion](#) and how it informs teaching.

Please watch the CELT Website for more resources as we work to expand our content in many different areas of learning and teaching.

Meet the CELT Board for the 2020 – 2021 Academic Year

We want to acknowledge our new and returning Board members for the upcoming year. Please reach out to any of us if you have questions or workshop ideas. Here is your 2020 – 2021 CELT Board:

Director: Susan Altman

Full-time Faculty Board Members: Chris Drew, Phalguni Ghosh, Dan Grek, Lorna Joasil, Adriana Mamay, and Crystal Quillen

Adjunct Faculty Board Members: April Johnson and Bill Lipkin



eLearning and CT 101

Do you still need help learning Canvas? Contact eLearning to take their course, CT 101. It will help you set up your course and effectively use Canvas pedagogy.

Tech Tips for Teaching

There are many apps and technology to support you as you teach remotely. Some of them can be integrated into Canvas (check with eLearning).

Canvas Studio: Easily create voice over PowerPoints and embed quizzes in your presentation. You can also record live demos. Your videos have tracking through *Insights* stay in your Canvas account to use again.

Anyone using [Padlet](#), [VoiceThread](#), or other technology and want to teach your colleagues? Let us know.