Center for Teaching and Learning

February 19, 2015





Tips for Engaging Students in Class Discussions

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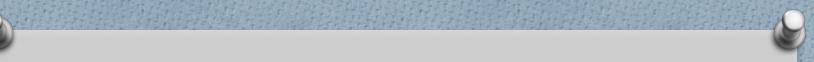
Let's Discuss Lists





3 Views of Lists

- "We will acknowledge up front that our contemporary fetish for making lists can, potentially, denigrate and trivialize those very things we choose to list." – Dr. Robert Greenberg
- "The list doesn't destroy culture; it creates it. Wherever you look in cultural history, you will find lists. In fact, there is a dizzying array: lists of saints, armies and medicinal plants, or of treasures and book titles. Think of the nature collections of the 16th century." Umberto Eco
- "It's a matter of how you use them. They can give you control in a certain way, but you don't want them to be the only thing you do to gain control." Dr. Cynthia Green



How do I love lists? Let me count the ways....

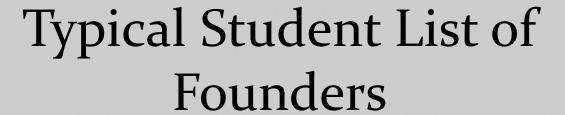
- Lists are concrete
 - They transform abstract, oral discussions into visual, tangible, written form
- Lists help order and focus a discussion
- Lists help students more easily process and recall information precisely because they provide order and concreteness





More to Love about Lists

- Lists lend themselves to collaboration
 - Have students collectively generate the list rather than providing it for them.
- Lists can be creative
 - They are acts of creation that can foster creative thinking
- Collaborative lists can create insights
 - Into the students' thoughts and thought-process
 - Into the broader culture from which students draw ideas



- George Washington
- John Adams
- Thomas Jefferson
- James Madison
- Benjamin Franklin
- Samuel Adams

Lists are familiar and entertaining!







Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Professors Lynn Bowes-Sperry and

Stacie Chapell

Reception 3:30 p.m.

Presentation 4:00 p.m.

Bears Dean