

The Launch Message

Week 1 Learning Activity - Building Online Community

by [Sylvia Riessner](#) **should be posted in Activity Forum on Tues night**

We've organized a short learning activity to guide you in exploring important concepts and ideas around the importance of building online community. As online instructors, your intentions and actions contribute to the success of your students and support the breadth and depth of learning that occurs in your online course.

We, your FLO Facilitators, will lead this first short learning activity - as a demonstration of how an Activity can be facilitated AND to encourage you to explore your own beliefs and knowledge about online learning communities.

The [Instructions and Schedule](#) are posted as a Moodle page above this discussion forum. Please read this document first and take note of the steps and due dates for the next four days.

We'll be available throughout the week and we may post occasional questions or suggestions in the forum. The Activity will finish on Friday afternoon.

Please note: Although we are demonstrating the basic approach to facilitating a Learning Activity, we have not allowed time for group feedback (a final step you will request during your team facilitation) nor will we complete the final facilitator feedback survey (FLIF). Instead, we'll use a Moodle blog to share some of our planning, our intentions, and to highlight some of our facilitation strategies.

We hope you enjoy this first session - please ask for help if you find anything unclear.

The two Threads Message

Step 1: Building online community

by [Sylvia Riessner](#) - **should be posted Tues night in Activity Forum**

We would like to invite you to engage in an exploration and discussion about your ideas and experiences related to online learning communities.

As online facilitators, creating and facilitating activities to build our class community is something we all need to do near the start of a course. We also need to find ways to support and encourage that sense of trust and support throughout our course. In this short learning activity, we'd like to introduce you to (or remind you of) a model called "Community of Inquiry" to frame our discussions around these concepts.

You'll see we've posted instructions for this entire activity, which are located right above this forum and are called [Instructions and Schedule](#). Please read through that page and be ready to post your first thoughts (Step 1) by Wednesday afternoon.

Step 1 asks you to reply to this post with your thoughts about the following two questions:

- **What comes to mind when you hear the term “online learning community?”**
- **Have you experienced being part of, or building, an online community?**

We've posted another thread in this same forum which you can respond to for Step 2 (due Thursday afternoon).

We're looking forward to sharing and learning more about your experiences and perceptions of online community.

Step 2: Instructor roles in building online community

by [Sylvia Riessner](#) - **should be posted Tues night in Activity Forum**

After you've done Step 1 for this activity (see the other thread), this is the post you should reply to for Step 2.

Reply to this post **by Thursday afternoon** to share your ideas about instructor actions or statements that can support online community.

- What have you seen used by other instructors/facilitators to build online community?
- What have you used yourself?
- What possible instructor actions, statements, or strategies appeal to you? Why?
- What questions do you have?

We encourage you to review other participant posts and engage in a discussion of different viewpoints or experiences.