

SMILE !

How do WE create a Safe, Meaningful and Inclusive Learning Environment?

Here are your suggestions from our Brainstorming session in North York on April 7, 2018 (in no particular order):



- 1) Middle or Advanced classes – students receive bonus marks (on a test or assignment) for not using their mother tongue in class.
- 2) Beginner classes – find something common to all – e.g., vegetables (maybe bring in real vegetables to discuss how each person prepares one of them; after communication activity is finished, students could take one vegetable home)
- 3) Names – meanings, how to say, who named you?, etc.
- 4) Using food & cooking as a topic to get everyone involved
- 5) Ask students why they chose Canada over another country
- 6) Instructors should model desired behaviours (e.g., pronouncing names correctly)
- 7) Each student should get an equal opportunity
- 8) Give choices / options / be flexible with planned activities
- 9) Ask students to listen to instructions, ask questions if they don't understand
- 10) Teacher gives each student the same amount of attention & time
- 11) Insist that students only speak English in class (depending on their level)
- 12) Ask that students be respectful of other people's opinions – listen to each other (No talking while one student is answering a question, for example.)
- 13) Don't laugh at each other
- 14) Students should practice using encouraging language to each other – e.g., "Good point!", "I agree!", "That's interesting", etc.
- 15) Instructors should demonstrate a caring attitude
- 16) Create interactive / communication activities to accomplishing tasks in teams
- 17) Ask students to show up on time
- 18) Be open to talk about differences (If someone has never met a Hijabi, for example, it's okay to ask about it, as long as the questions are *respectful*.)