

Building Common Ground: Introductory Blog Post

Graziella McCarron, Integrative Studies



INTS 435: Leadership in Changing Environments

INTS 404: Ethics & Leadership

INTS 204: Leadership Theory & Practice

For our required introductory blog post, students respond to prompts I provide, and as part of the assignment, comment on two classmates' posts. I strongly believe that anonymity (an unfortunate pitfall of digital learning) can lead to invisibility, exclusion, misunderstanding, and miscommunication. As such, I seek to “humanize” myself as instructor/facilitator and support students in “showing” themselves to each other. Common ground may start with sharing a love of baking or raising children while a student, but it can blossom into shared dialogue about leadership, our place in the world, and how we relate to each other as a learning community. (I also post my responses to these questions.)

1. Where you from and what brought you to Mason?
2. What is your...Mason department, degree, year, and major?
3. If you had to share five words that describe you...which words would you choose and why?
4. Please tell us about your background with leadership and/or leadership studies.
5. What does leadership and leading change mean to you?
6. What are your expectations for this course?
7. If you've taken an online course before, what tips for success can you offer other participants?
8. As a class, we're going to develop our own netiquette guidelines for how we want to be with each other in this digital space. What would you add to these guidelines?
9. Given that this learning community will include a good deal of team collaboration and require folks to get in touch with each other offline, please share your Mason email. If you are comfortable, please share a preferred phone number.
10. Please post a photo or an avatar (which is a photo representation of yourself) to your blog entry. (To add a photo/avatar, select the Insert/Edit image icon on the menu bar. You may need to expand the menu to see the icon.)



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