

UK 101/UK 201 GOOD IDEA LIST

- 1. Check UK 101 website** (www.uky.edu/UK101, then click on instructor resources) for supplemental materials and class announcements.
- 2. Send a letter to your students this summer.** Some instructors send a letter to the students enrolled in their UK 101 or UK 201 classes after the students register. To request labels of your students' permanent home addresses, go the Registrar's Office website at <http://www.uky.edu/Registrar/request.htm>. Allow four weeks for the labels.
- 3. Use creative titles in your syllabus for class topics.** For example, list time management topic as: How to Be an "A" Student and Still Have Time for Fun.
- 4. Plan to teach most of your class sessions.** The most effective instructors use a limited number of guest presenters. It is much easier to get to know students if the instructor and peer instructor teach the majority of the class sessions.
- 5. Bring variety to the course.** Use multiple methods of teaching/learning such as small group work, guest presenters, panel presentations, role plays, multi-media.
- 6. Use name cards; good tool for everyone to learn names and for attendance.** Name cards (large note cards folded in half) are provided in the pocket of your UK 101/201 instructor manual. Distribute cards as students arrive; the names on remaining cards are the students who are absent. Collect cards at the end of each class.
- 7. Ask students to add information about themselves on the inside of their name cards.** This can help you remember information about each student. You can also add a digital picture of the student inside the name card.
- 8.** In your syllabus, include a **brief "biography"** of yourself and your peer instructor.
- 9. Learn student names! Take digital pictures** of your class members and label with names. Be sure and get permission from students to take their pictures. If posting their pictures on a class website, you must ask students to sign an image consent form (UK policy) found at www.uky.edu/PR/photo-image_consent_form.pdf or stop by 518 POT.
- 10. Incorporate additional "get to know you" exercises throughout first few classes.**
- 11.** Ask peer instructor to create a **Big Blue Network group** for your class.

- 12. Write thank you notes to guest presenters.** Ask designated students to write handwritten thank you notes to guest presenters. Can work into “classroom etiquette” information.
- 13. Respond to students when they send their assignments via email.**
- 14. Celebrate student birthdays.** On first day of class, ask students to write their birthday on index card or opposite side of name card. Bring in a treat during the week of someone’s birthday and recognize him or her to the class. Or celebrate and recognize everyone’s birthday during one class.
- 15. Talk individually with students before or after class.** Inquire about classes, family, or weekend plans. If a student expresses frustration with a class or exam, refer student to campus resource. Follow up with student to ask if he or she utilized resource. Some instructors jot down information on a post-it note to remind them to ask individual students about particular topics.
- 16. Meet individually or in pairs with your UK 101 or UK 201 students.** Some instructors require students to meet with them during office hours in order to pass UK 101/201. If you decide to add this requirement, include it in syllabus.
- 17. Allow students to vote** on the topic for one or two open sessions.
- 18. Ask students in your class to take turns introducing guest presenters.**
- 19. Facilitate discussion about college adjustments.** At the beginning of a few classes, ask questions about students’ adjustment to UK. Can also use questions to review issues you have discussed in class such as visiting professors during office hours. The following are sample questions:
 - a. How are things going? How is college life different than you thought it would be? What are adjustments that many first-year students experience the first few months? (Examples include time management, freedom, roommates, community bathroom, being away from home, meeting new people, separation anxiety—miss parents, friends, pets.)
 - b. Are you finding things to do on campus? Are you meeting people who like to do the same kinds of things that you do? Have you tried any new activities?
 - c. How many of you have a roommate? How many of you are living at home? How’s that going? For those of you with roommates, have you had to discuss “room guidelines?” For example, have you discussed borrowing each other’s things or visitors in the room?
 - d. When are your first exams? When do you plan to begin to study for those exams?
 - e. Have you visited any of your professors? Why is now a good time to begin to visit them?
 - f. Have you scheduled an appointment with your advisor?

20. **Use good news/bad news exercise.** Begin each class by asking students to share something positive that happened to them. Then ask if anyone has concerns and/or questions. The class members and instructors address the concerns/questions.
21. **Distribute candy or other treats from time to time.** Many UK 101/201 instructors or peer instructors distribute blow pops or tootsie pops, etc., during the study strategies sessions to liven things up!
22. **During class, ask students to write a one-minute essay** to express what is on their mind or what they learned from a session.
23. **Conduct a mid-course evaluation.** Ask the students to write answers to the following three questions-What helps you learn in this class? What makes learning hard in this class? What are changes that you suggest or topics and activities that you wish we would include?
24. **Recognize students for their accomplishments.** Peer instructor asks students to stand if they received an A on an exam or a paper, and the class applauds them. Peer instructor then asks students who have attended all of their classes to stand, and students applaud them, etc.
25. **Review campus resources toward end of UK 101.** Review exercise included in "Last UK 101 Class" lesson plan under open sessions on UK 101 website.
26. **Vote on UK 101 awards for "best of" or "most likely to..." and reveal results on last day of class.**
27. **Send follow-up email to students at end of semester.** Send an email to your students before finals week to wish them good luck.
28. **Undergraduate Student Cost Per Class Contact Hour (An Incentive for NOT Skipping Class)**
By Joe Fink

Coming at it from a student cost perspective –

Tuition/semester for first-year students

In-state \$4,061.50

Out-of-state \$8,339.00

Assume semester credit load = 15 semester hours

Tuition/semester hour credit

In-state \$271/credit

Out-of-state \$556/credit

Tuition/class contact hour (based on assumption of 225 contact hours during all courses)

In-state	\$18.05/class contact hour
Out-of-state	\$37.06/class contact hour

So that's what they (or someone on their behalf) each will be paying for each hour of class!

29. Give students survival kits. See next page.

UK 101 First-Year Student Survival Kit Contents

Special thanks to Tony Dotson for sharing this creative idea and handout with us. Tony created "survival kits" for his students that included all of the following items. He distributed this handout along with the kits.

Post Card – to help keep the dying art of written communications alive. A phone call ends when you hang up, but a post card will last forever. Suggested format: Love and miss you all. UK is great, especially my UK 101 class! Please send money.

Thank You Card – Keeping with the theme of written communication, a thank you card says a little more. Give it to someone who helped you get through this semester.

Reinforcements – Sometimes all we need is a little positive reinforcement. Don't forget your friends.

Band Aids – For life's little bumps.

Tide – Don't have a full load? Then wash that favorite article in your sink and conserve some water.

Ramen – Now with that water you save...just add this high sodium, low protein treat. What you may not know is that you can add just about anything to Ramen and make it better. Examples include but are not limited to: cheese, eggs, meat or hot dogs, and even veggies. Keep in mind that in some countries such food is a staple of their diet.

Nabs – Cheese crackers and peanut butter...an unusual combination that is oh so good. Sometimes unlikely partners make for a wonderful relationship. Warning: Don't attempt to whistle after eating.

Morning Spark – Caffeinated drink mix...This is a 9:30 class after all. Warning: Excess caffeine could lead to class participation. Drink responsibly.

Ear plugs – To dull the roar coming from your neighbor's stereo or to muffle the snore coming from your roommate. We all need a little quiet time.

Post It Notes – If you are apt to forget little things like your keys or your textbook or GOING TO CLASS, these can help. Simply write yourself a reminder and post it where you are sure to see it, like the refrigerator or the mirror. If you forget where you posted your reminders, you may need professional help.

Cough Drops – Take at the first sign of that little tickle in your throat. Don't forget to cover your mouth when you cough. Use a post it note if you feel the need to remind yourself.

Toy Soldier – Commonly referred to as an "Army Man," it is just a small reminder to remember our troops. When you think things are tough, remember that there are thousands of young men and women just like you who are in harm's way every day.

Pens and Pencils – These are the tools of your trade. Use them. Write often—letters, journals, poems, songs, etc. Words are the voice of the heart.

Magic Markers – Life is not black and white. Add some color to your world and see how much brighter it becomes. A reminder to you that the campus is comprised of students of many different ethnic backgrounds. Take this opportunity to get to know some of them, and you will learn a lot about them and yourself.

Highlighter – Some things are worth highlighting. Be sure to emphasize the things that are important to you.

Erasers – Because we all make mistakes...but few are not correctable.

Kleenex – To dry the tears that sometimes come when our hearts are heavy. Or to stem the flow of nasal emissions that often come with allergies or Kentucky winters.

Hand Sanitizer – The number one method of preventing illness is not an apple a day; it is keeping your hands clean.

Rubber Bands – Holding things together while remaining flexible, rubber bands have a 101 uses. We all have our breaking points; don't stretch yourself too thin. Remember that your priority is your education, and all other activities are less important. Remember to remain flexible.

Paper Clips – Holding things together while remaining rigid and inflexible. The paper clip is pretty much limited to its name and making paper clip chains. When you remain rigid or inflexible, you are of little use to the group.

Snap-link with Compass – To help you find your way around this huge campus. May you never be lost again.

Water – The best thing you can put in your body. Not only does it quench your thirst and keep you hydrated, but it also aids with digestion and keeps your skin healthy. May you always thirst for knowledge.