Self Presentation

"When the senders are familiar with the recipients, they tend to be more informal and are more willing to share personal information, thereby achieving greater interaction... Therefore, it is recommended that a dedicated time for introductions be integrated into the course design at the beginning of the semester." (Tu, Chih-Hsiung, and McIssac)

The importance of Self-Presentation is to reveal "yourself" to the class and to get class members comfortable revealing themselves to one another.

Create an Instructor Bio

Use this opportunity to post something about yourself that will give your students a sense of your personality and who you are as an instructor. You can provide a written welcome statement with a picture or even a brief video introduction.

Goal: Give students an opportunity to "know" the instructor and put a name with a face

Tools you can use

- Webpage
- Discussion Board

Have the students create profiles

Have each of the students post a profile that could include: a picture of the student, instant messenger ID, current position, prior experience, interests associated with the field of study, and any other personal information they choose to share.

Goal: Help the instructor and the other students build a social connection

Tools you can use

- Webpage
- Discussion Board

Initial Contact

Create a letter to send to your students welcoming them to the course and providing them with information as to when and where you expect to see them logged into the course. This is especially helpful to students new to the online course experience.

Goal: Introduce yourself and provide students with necessary information about the course

Tools you can use

- Email
- Snail Mail

Ice Breaker

Develop an ice breaker that will get the students interacting with you and with one another. Place them in groups and send them on a scavenger hunt for information on the course, each other, or even you and then have them post what they find.

Goal: Begin the interaction process

Tools you can use

- Webpage
- Discussion Board
- Chat
- Video Conference
- Wiki
- Groups