

Hello All!

I am attaching here your first module. What IS a module? All the classes I teach are "flipped," which means that I don't lecture or tell you information during class. Of course you need information, but you could learn that foundational information better and more easily at home on your own. Then class time is freed up for interactive activities that can only be done face to face. What are the advantages of doing this?

- Students are more satisfied because they feel class time is more valuable – not something they could have done on their own.
- Professors are there when students need them most: when they are wrestling with the application of the new ideas.
- Professors get to spend more time one-on-one with students and know them better.
- Students must be more engaged and self-regulated, so they learn more.
- Students with disabilities may benefit, for example those who have attention deficit issues can watch, listen, or read in an environment that works well for them.
- Students can go at their own pace. They can re-listen to portions or stop and write. If they realize they just can't focus right then, they can stop and come back later. ESOL students in particular may benefit from this self-pacing.
- In class, the professor can go straight to, "Where are you confused? What questions do you have?" Rather than spending time on everything that needs to be absorbed, you can concentrate on just the problematic areas, which may differ from class to class or year to year.
- It is motivating because students know they will be asked to do something with their new knowledge beyond just regurgitating it on a test.
- The flipped classroom sends positive messages, "You are capable of learning certain information on your own, and you don't need it spoon fed to you."
- Experiencing the same information through multiple neural pathways (seeing, reading, hearing) increases one's ability to understand and recall that information.

So modules are a collection of carefully curated resources designed to help you teach yourself the foundational information you'll need to participate in class. But modules aren't just the resources; you will always be asked to interact with the resources and do something with them. If all you do is read an article or watch a video, it is like putting food in your mouth but not chewing it or digesting it, and why on Earth would you do that? Nothing you read, hear, or see is likely to stick unless you interact with it. To start we'll keep the interaction simple; I'm just going to ask you to answer a series of questions that ask you to personalize and synthesize the resources.

When you open a module in Word, just type directly into it. You'll generally be directed to go read, watch, or listen to some resource and then type in your answers. The goal isn't to skim over the resources and then jot something down to make me happy. You aren't doing these modules for *me*, these are for you and your future

students. You aren't answering questions to get a good grade, you are answering questions in order to help yourself think through important issues and ideas. Take your time. Really go deep. Come to class knowing that I am going to ask you to put your new knowledge to work.