

I'm Here, Now What?: Easing First-Year Anxieties Among Librarians and Students in the Classroom

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What are Fear Cards?

- Begins with a question
 - Example: What is your largest concern about finding information in the library?
- Students respond anonymously
- Instructor reads and analyzes the responses and responds to them in class
- Icebreaker or pre-instructional activity

How they help students

- Anonymity ensures students feel comfortable in sharing
- Since instructors address the fears in class, students feel heard and respected
- Can demonstrate that other students are experiencing fears as well

How they help librarians

- An outline for class where there is no assignment
- Helps better understand students and their information needs
- Fosters collaboration with peers over results

Examples of Responses

- How do I print?
- I'm confused about checking out books
- I don't want to look in the wrong spots
- I'm overwhelmed by the amount of information
- How do I book a study room?
- Where do I find articles?

Reference

Blanchett, H., Powis, C., & Webb, J. (2012). *A guide to teaching information literacy: 101 practical tips*. Facet Pub.