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

Mia McGee and Nick D’Andrea
Research and Instruction Librarians
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