

# Social Scaffolding: Building Community Online

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In order to create a learning environment where failure is welcomed and encouraged, we need to cultivate trust. Without trust, there is no space for vulnerability. Without vulnerability—a willingness to experiment in public—there is no learning.

**Class communities don't just happen! We need to (co)create them.**

Here are a few ways to do so:

- ★ Connect in class and out-of-class work to make the invisible visible
- ★ Use student names every chance you get to validate students' ideas
- ★ Design practical group activities to promote knowledge co-construction

## Links to examples from Ignite Talk

- [Day 1 Class Discussion Prompt & HW for Day 2](#)
- Incomplete syllabus (before student contributions): [ENGL398R Fall 20 Syllabus](#)
- Day 2 Synchronous Class: [Group Activity \(Participation Guidelines\)](#)
- Complete syllabus: [ENGL398R Fall 20 Final Syllabus](#)
- Day 3 Synchronous Class: [Group Activity \(Analyzing texts\)](#)

## More Examples of Synchronous OL Group Writing Activities in Google Docs

- [Summarizing a scholarly article](#) (Academic Writing)
- [Group Rogerian letter](#) (Academic Writing)
- [Group Flyer \(National Adjunct Walkout Day\)](#) (Professional Writing)

## Further Reading

Borgman, J. C., & McArdle, C. (2019). *Personal, Accessible, Responsive, Strategic: Resources and strategies for online writing instructors*. Fort Collins, CO: WAC Clearinghouse.

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