




we challenge  
you to...


# Rock the first Day!



You may remember the 1980s Head and Shoulders™ ad campaign with the tag line, “Because you never get a second chance to make a first impression.” All seborrheic dermatitis aside, the sentiment deserves attention as we approach the start of a new semester.

Recently, the concept of “syllabus week” has surfaced among many students. Students under the influence of “syllabus week” expect the first week of the semester will be void of any thinking or “real learning”; a simple reading of the course schedule, grading requirements, and academic integrity policy are all that is required. Such practices are antithetical to student engagement.

**Instead, make the first day count by...**



*E-mailing your students introducing yourself, the course, and what you will be doing the first day.*

*Planning an interactive activity based on an important course concept.*

*Holding a dialog with your students about “mutual expectations”*

*Engaging the students in an ice-breaker name game.*

Coach McGuire said we have ten minutes—600 seconds—in which to hook our students into what we are doing for the entire 15-week semester.

How will you use them?

