

# 5 Tips for CREATING A MORE ENGAGING SYLLABUS

Your syllabus is an opportunity to form meaningful connections and welcome your students. A well-crafted and thoughtful syllabus can boost student engagement, increase motivation to succeed and lead to better learning outcomes. Consider revising your syllabus to make a better first impression.

Follow these tips to create an engaging syllabus that is inclusive and welcoming:



## 1. Use first- and second-person language

Talk to your readers as if they are in front of you. Avoid calling them “students.”

- ⊗ *“Students will learn physical exam skills by working with standardized patients.”*
- ⊙ *“To hone your skills as a clinician, you will practice and receive feedback through standardized patient encounters.”*



## 2. Use a warmer, approachable tone

Positive language has many benefits for student learning and success. Be careful about phrasing. Harsh language may deter students from interacting with you and the course material.

*“If you need help, contact me.”* → *“I welcome you to reach out to me for help.”*

*“Don’t use cellphones.”* → *“Be mindful that your devices do not serve as a distraction to you or those around you.”*



## 3. Create a welcome video

It doesn’t need to be fancy! Your welcome video should be no longer than 3 minutes and contain:

- » Who you are
- » Your experience related to content/discipline
- » Why the material is important to you
- » How you will help them through the course

💡 **Tip:** Use [Flip](#) to include the learners and keep the conversation going!



## 4. Add visual appeal

Visual elements add interest to help students read and interact with your syllabus. Consider adding a relevant image or integrating a quote from someone the students will be reading from during the course. Free visual design tools and image libraries include:

- » [Canva.com](#)
- » [Venngage.com](#)
- » [Pixabay.com](#)



## 5. Leave room for input

Get buy-in from students by giving them a voice. Outline your course and allow them to vote on subtopics within the subject matter themes. [Read more.](#)



For more tips and information [watch this](#) past faculty development session