

Getting Students Prepared for FYE Showcase



From the first day of classes and at multiple points during the semester, my LC partner and I discuss the FYE Student Showcase and its rationale with students. We remind learners that the Showcase is a unique professionalizing opportunity for first-semester freshmen, meriting a line on their resumes. My LC partner and I have created a midterm joint small-group collaborative multi-media assignment that also serves as student Showcase presentations/exhibits. The midterm date provides students ample time to revise and prepare for the Showcase. Student teams also present their midterm projects to the whole class. This gives teams the opportunity to practice their “professional presence” where they can practice leading discussion and fielding questions. The assignment’s oral component also familiarizes students with all of the projects so they can speak to their classmates’ work at the Showcase. Before the Showcase, student teams sign up for ten-minute time slots to “host” our class tables of multimedia projects. In addition, a volunteer student Showcase “manager” joins me before the start of the event to test computer equipment. At the Showcase, we ask students to explore student work and report what they have learned. This year, I will ask additional volunteer managers to oversee the changing of the guard at our tables. As Showcase founder, I have learned that starting early and involving students in the process makes for a relatively stress-free Showcase for learners and teachers.