The first lesson

*“... make sure your students walk out of there remembering the first day of your class. Who knows, maybe it’ll be the first day of a very long passion for the field.*” [Off to a Great Start: Stanford Teachers Share Tips for a Successful First Day of Class.](https://teachingcommons.stanford.edu/teaching-talk/great-start-stanford-teachers-share-tips-successful-first-day-class)

There is only one FIRST lesson. Nerves, anxiousness, excitement and shyness - all of these emotions will be running through the veins of your new ākonga (and probably you!). How do you introduce yourself and your subject? How do you help your ākonga connect to you and each other? How will you set up the environment so it is inviting and interesting? When they leave the class how do you want them to feel? [Emotions are integral to learning](http://www.oecd.org/education/ceri/50300814.pdf)

**Below are a number of strategies and ideas that you might find useful**. If you do plan for name games - please check with your class if they already know each other as you may find it is their fourth name game for the day!

*To post put the topic as the subject line in your email and send to**secondaryliteracy@lists.tki.org.nz**. Subscribe [here.](http://literacyonline.tki.org.nz/Literacy-Online/Community/Mailing-lists/Secondary-Literacy)* *here are some changes to how you will access the archives: the TKI mailing list archives will continue to require a username and password. Your username is now the email you used to subscribe to the list. Your password can be reset on the TKI Mailing list homepage (link to*[*https://lists.tki.org.nz/sympa*](https://lists.tki.org.nz/sympa)*).*

**Share mihi.** Here are some [resources](https://www.inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-maori-students/consider-learner-profiles)for your ākonga to write and present their own mihi.

**Get your students talking.** [Studies show](https://teachingcommons.stanford.edu/teaching-talk/great-start-stanford-teachers-share-tips-successful-first-day-class) that if you get the students talking in the first class they are more likely to talk the rest of the quarter.

After some [whakawhanaungatanga](https://vln.school.nz/discussion/view/858541) think of some**personal questions that link to your subject area**. For instance Maths: write or state as many numerical facts about you and your whānau as you can in five minutes. Now share with another person and see how many similar numbers you have? Or adapt this task so that students are talking and listening in pairs or groups. That way you are helping them build connections continually.

Prepare a **postcard** for each learner and **ask them to write one to you.**

Ask them to **write a letter to their future selves.** Could be for the end of the year, term or school. After reading them, store them away and return them back to them when appropriate. **They will remember this personal act for the rest of their lives.**

**Learner Profiles**: Share your own teacher profile then ask your learners what will help and get them to create their own [learner profiles](https://www.inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-maori-students/consider-learner-profiles).

**Value Te Reo Māori and all languages.**Even if you are a novice at te reo, use it and encourage all students to use it and other languages straight away!

**Your classroom environment.** What could you do to make your room look inviting? Could you leave the desks piled up and give the class a challenge to arrange the desks in an **innovative and fun way f**or the first lesson. The instructions could be on the board and give them a time limit

[Your First Lesson: Five Essential Ice-breakers that will Guarantee Success:](https://busyteacher.org/4767-first-lesson-5-essential-ice-breakers-success.html)

[Whakawhanaungatanga](https://vln.school.nz/discussion/view/858541)

1.     [Knowing my learners (Linda Ojala)](https://vln.school.nz/discussion/view/824762?orderby=latest) Thread from the UDL (Universal Design for Learning) group

2.     [How do you get to know your Pasifika students?](https://vln.school.nz/discussion/view/817856) Thread from UDL (Universal Design for Learning) group

3.     [Mihimihi / Establishing Connections](https://vln.school.nz/discussion/view/744457) Thread from Learning with Digital Technologies for Māori an Pasifika learners

4.     [Technology Online: Tēnei Au – This is Me!](http://technology.tki.org.nz/Resources/Teaching-snapshots/Middle-Years-7-10/Tenei-au-This-is-me) Teacher inquiry on getting to know students more

5.     [Using Photo Booth in preparing to mihi](http://softwareforlearning.tki.org.nz/Snapshots/Photo-Booth/%28language%29/eng-NZ) With references to other technologies as well

6.     [Point England School student, Toreka’s mihi](http://pestorekat.blogspot.co.nz/2012/04/my-mihi.html) Example of student’s digital mihi.

[Building relationships with your Māori students](https://www.inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-maori-students/) and all learners.

Have you got some fun or different ways to make your first class memorable? Write us a post sharing what you plan to do or have done.

**New resources** from the **MOE:** [Leading local curriculum guide series](http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Reviewing-your-curriculum/Leading-Local-Curriculum-Guide-series)

**Professional Learning for Teachers** and Leaders.

I am facilitating two workshops this term in Auckland.

**Agentic Leadership to Enable Pacific Success**. We will unpack this title, look at levels of influence to enable Pacific success & unpack Tapasā: the new cultural competencies. Guest appearances by Dr Michelle Johansson and Pacific students. *Monday, March 18th at Onehunga Community House. Cost $295 (group discount available)*[Register here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSck68LhPHNJ1RMksjn_h5nJO7k9SRBtPSEt4GiaK9MSoaUikA/viewform) or email alanamadgwick@gmail.com for a flyer.

**Accelerating Achievement by Teaching Literacy in NCEA Classrooms**. We will look at how to improve student agency through teaching disciplinary literacy strategies. Case studies of acceleration will be shared and practical strategies will be modelled. This workshop is for teachers and leaders from every subject area. *Monday, April 8th at Onehunga Community House. Cost $295 (group discount available)*. [Register here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeX_P41legzzF3ZAj6zppycmaUv7S09IeH6m8ISVMq4zeq5Cg/viewform) or email alanamadgwick@gmail.com for a flyer.

Have a wonderful week and I look forward to hearing from you.

Alana Madgwick

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