



Mapping the First-Year Experience: Exploring Key Moments and Transitions

Overview:

This activity is designed to help MUG leaders understand their role in a first-year student's transition to university. The activity is focused on having squads (approximately 12 students) identify what they consider to be the most pivotal or impactful experiences that a first-year student is likely to encounter. Through using cut-out paper people to represent "students", the MUG leaders will identify how the first-year student may be feeling in that situation. By communicating the different resources on campus the MUG leaders will identify how they would recommend the student overcome or transition to that situation.

Objectives:

As a result of participating in this activity student leaders will:

- Reflect on their own experiences as a first-year student and key moments that they remember
- Empathize with the feelings of a new to UBC first-year student through identifying how they would feel in certain situations or moments
- Understand their role in the transition process at UBC and not just for Imagine Day

Instructions:

- Tell the group of MUG Leaders to think back on their first-year experience and pick four moments, events, or experiences that impacted them the most (based on time, you can adjust the amount of experiences accordingly)
- Show them the large piece of paper and instruct them to draw the experience on the sheet of paper using the provided craft supplies and markers.
- Show them the cut-out student. Ask them to think about how they were feeling during those particular experiences and draw it on the "student". A good example would be their first midterm. The MUG leaders may share that they felt nervous, underprepared, or scared.
- Then ask the MUG leaders to think about the resources or advice that they would direct a student to in order to help them in this situation.
- Allow approximately 20 minutes for the groups to develop the experiences and decorate their "students"
- Have the MUG leaders share their key moments with the larger group. Encourage the students to get creative and have fun! Prizes may be awarded.
- If students are having difficulty thinking about these key experiences possible examples include, their first-day of university (Imagine Day), moving into residence, commuting to campus, or getting involved in a club or organization.

Supplies Needed:

- Large pieces of paper to draw the situation, experience, or moment (4 per group)
- Cut out people (4 per groups) to represent the students
- Markers and fun craft supplies to decorate