**Teaching First Year Students—Strategies**

**Core 2013**

* It’s important to remember to start where the students are in a First Year student only course. Perhaps they don’t *know* what you think they will, or perhaps they know it by some other name than the one you’re using.
* Start slowly. You may be able to go quickly through chapters or readings later in the course. But giving yourself permission to spend a lot of time ‘setting the stage’ can establish a good group dynamic, and you’ll be less likely to leave some behind.
* Give detailed instructions on assignments. Given that students may have a very wide set of experiences in high school, it is best to ‘get everyone on the same page’ regarding assignment expectations from the get-go.
* Remember that they are Freshmen. When teaching PIs, there was always a mixture of students at different levels. In an FYS you are introducing one or more Enduring Questions and your subject to a group of Freshmen *only*. They have no upper-level student models for how to act in class: how to ask question; how to answer questions; etc. You need to help them.
* While ACS familiarizes students with campus resources, it is good to repeat some of that information, as appropriate in the FYS.
* Consider allowing discussion to lead a whole class period, even when you feel the pressure to get through more material.