

Embarking on the Journey - Script

Intro:

Congratulations. You've done it! You have enrolled in college! For many students, this is the most challenging step. I can only imagine the obstacles you've had to overcome to get here. If you're like many of our students, this may not be your first time in college. But, no matter what failures or successes you have experienced in the past, you have a new opportunity before you and only you can determine your success going forward.

How this class is about preparing for a journey

You should know that while your determination and effort play a significant role in your success, we are here to walk alongside you and provide the support you need to succeed. I'm happy to let you know that at this university, we want to equip you with the tools you need to learn as much as you can and finish your educational goals on time. And that is what this course is all about.

Story

Something you might not have guessed about me is that I am an avid rock climber and mountaineer. A few years ago, I decided to climb the highest mountain in the continental US. Now, this mountain has many routes to the summit and even a trail to the summit, but my climbing partners and myself decided to climb the face of the mountain, which is a technical rock climb requiring ropes and much off trail navigation.

Now, we happened to plan our climb at time of year where the temperatures can range from the 70 degrees to below freezing. The weather on this mountain range tends to blow in from the opposite side of the mountain range, so you can't see the storm until it is right on top of you. Therefore, it was essential that we were adequately prepared for this expedition. So, what did we do to prepare?

- First, we did our research on the route. We created a "roadmap" of sorts, noting each section of our climb. We established the locations where we would camp. We selected alternative routes to get off the mountain in case of emergency. We established back-up plans.
- Second, we made sure we were in top shape. We spent time climbing long routes on the weekends. We even hired a guide for a weekend to teach us advanced self-rescue techniques in case we encountered an emergency on the mountain. We made sure we had the equipment we needed in case we ran into trouble.
- Third, we researched the weather prior to departing and packed the right equipment, food, and gear needed for a successful summit. Once we got to the trailhead, we checked the weather one last time and again reviewed the gear we packed before we embarked on our expedition.

Your own expedition

We want you to think of this class in much the same way... You are embarking on one of the most important journeys of your life. Earning your degree will be a challenge that requires much of your time and energy. In addition, this is a significant financial investment, so it's essential that you do everything it takes to have a successful expedition.

- You need to chart your route, develop needed skills, get extra help when needed, acquire important tools, and prepare for the unexpected.
- Many orientation and introductory courses give you tools such as how to study, how to read a book, or how to manage your time. This course goes further than that. We want you not only to learn skills, but also develop the psychological and sociological aspects of thriving, not only in school, but in life. We want you to come out of this class with a sense of purpose, and a curiosity toward learning where you gain the internal motivation components that will drive you to succeed in achieving your goals.
- Learning is not only about knowledge and skills, but life transformation. Many of the activities you will engage in over the next 8 weeks will allow you to reflect on your faith and belief systems and integrate that into your learning.

This class is also about hope. Throughout this course you'll have the opportunity to identify your goals and reflect on your motivation for the future.

- As a faith-based university, we believe that education should be a hope-filled experience that produces positive and lasting change, making a difference in the lives of others and in our communities. We invite you to be part of this hope-filled educational journey.

Expectations

To get the most out of this class, we have some expectation for you.

- 1) We ask you to be engaged in the forum discussions. Take charge of your learning and stay active in the classroom community. In the forums, you have the freedom to not only agree with others, but also disagree. Let your voice be heard, and respect the voice of others.
- 2) It is also important that you ask questions when you have them. Never feel embarrassed in asking a question. Our instructors and staff are happy to answer any question you might have.
- 3) Put forth the effort required to succeed. Only you can determine this effort. Give it all and submit work on time. If you need help with your writing, contact a writing coach in our writing center. Go the extra mile and get the most out of your education.

Conclusion

We believe in you and your ability to succeed. We invite you to join us on this adventure. The expedition will be challenging, but I am confident it will be worth the effort.