

The first time you meet the professor



- ☐ 1. Make a list of questions to raise at the meeting—both those on this list, and anything else you want to know.
- ☐ 2. Get a copy of the course syllabus.
- ☐ 3. Get copies of the writing assignments you'll be following. If the professor hasn't yet written them, ask to have them e-mailed when they're available.
- ☐ 4. Find out the due dates for both drafts and final papers.
- ☐ 5. Schedule any future meetings with the professor.
- ☐ 6. Set up a day in the first two weeks of the semester for you to meet the class.
- ☐ 7. Ask about the professor's goals. What does he or she hope students will take away from the course?
- ☐ 8. Find out what kinds of students enroll in the course: What year(s) are they likely to be? How much writing experience are they likely to have?
- ☐ 9. Set up a system for the paper exchange.
- ☐ 10. Discuss a late draft policy: Will you accept them? How late? Does the professor want to know who turns in late drafts?
- ☐ 11. Discuss a missed-conference policy: What will the professor do to make sure students understand that conferences are required? Does the professor want to know who misses conferences?
- ☐ If your schedule allows, ask if there's a day that would be especially helpful for you to sit in on the class— say, the day that the professor explains the first writing assignment. Sitting in on class for a day is entirely optional: some Fellows do it; others don't. But remember: even if you've attended class to get a better sense of the material, you should always refer content-based questions to the professor.