

Pedagogy Breakout

Main Takeaway 1: Expanded Topic List

- There is much interest in expanding the current topic list to include a greater number of potential topics that GU faculty can choose from with their linking partner
- Potential additional topics: tourism, gender parity, mental health, LGBTQ+, work and careers, social media, separating family and cultural traditions into separate linking day topics, local media representation / press coverage of partner countries* (*could alternatively be a collaborative project topic)

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Main Takeaway 2: Ideas for Facilitating Friendship

- In order to make more informed decisions when setting up initial partners, another column could be added to the partner spreadsheet where faculty can provide information about student hobbies and interests, thus potentially promoting friendship by putting students together who may have something in common rather than at random
- Promoting/strengthening out-of-class interaction:
 - Students can take and share photos and/or short videos
 - Discussing social media on the first day to encourage social media interaction outside of class
 - Caveats: privacy issues; not all students are on social media or may be comfortable sharing their social media with people they don't know
 - Discussion of the need for a collaborative platform

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Main Takeaway 3: Improving Linking Day #1

- Emphasize ice breakers and shared experiences on the first linking day
- Have students create a one-slide personal introduction with images and information about their interests and hobbies to improve initial interactions with partners

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Main Takeaway 4: Facilitating Discussions

- Designate student discussion leaders
- Have students prepare and submit discussion questions in advance; have students try and answer their own questions from their perspective prior to the linking day
- Instructors model effective discussion strategies and participation expectations