



Preparing to start a new semester when uncertainty remains



Kathleen Savage
senior teaching fellow

Preparing for the new semester

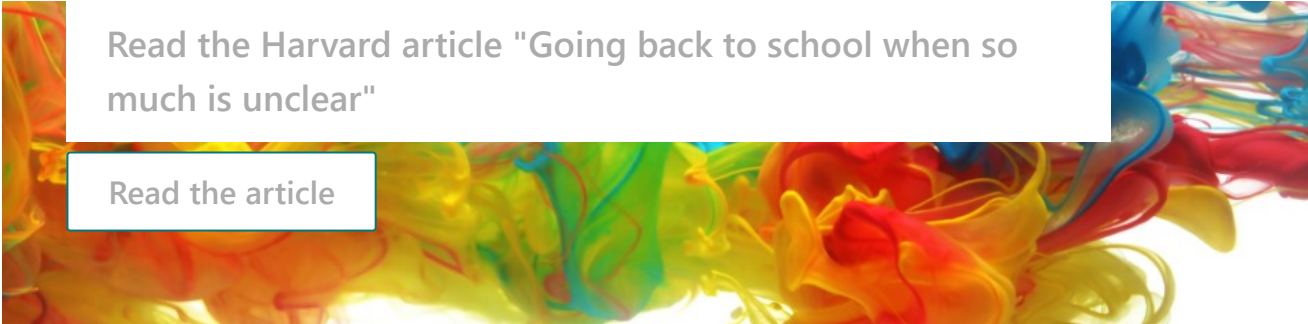
As we are all preparing for the upcoming semester, we thought it would be helpful this week to take some time to reflect on the hopes, expectations, and uncertainties that we face.

Many of you will be (at least partially) returning to campus and we know that many of you are looking forward to seeing your students again and being able to work alongside them to support their learning. However you might also be concerned that things could change and more restrictions may return. In addition, your students are most likely looking to you for reassurance about this - which is hard to provide.

So this week we recommend that you take 5 minutes to read the Harvard article to the right (click on the link to access). This article addressed really well how you might prepare to manage this semester. Topics addressed in the article include,

- Address students' pandemic experiences and the newness of being on campus
- Make sure students feel welcome back on campus - and make sure they know you have a contingency plan
- Identify what will be different this year and explain why adaptability is essential
- Approach 'back to school' with a little humour :)





Read the Harvard article "Going back to school when so much is unclear"

[Read the article](#)

Let us know what you think

Use the comments below to let us know how you are preparing for the upcoming semester and share ideas of how we might support our students with concerns about the inevitable uncertainty that we face as a learning and teaching community.