



Cultivating Community Through a Virtual Campus Book Club

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Overview

In this presentation, I will share...

The origins of our virtual book club at SUNY Corning

Logistics of planning and realizing the book club

Considerations for the future

A seed is planted...

Development Foundation (alumni relations/fundraising work) expresses interest

Book club for alumni evolves into open book club

Monthly book club during academic year becomes year-round

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Why start a virtual book club?

Requested by students!

Opportunity to collaborate across campus

Offer programming for remote learners

Support diversity initiatives

Build community



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Goals for our book club

Meet once monthly

Attendance from the following groups:

Students, alumni, faculty, staff

Read works by historically excluded individuals

Titles selected by attendees

Additional considerations: page length, availability in local library collections

Identify hosts willing to lead future discussions

Considerations for growth

Identify goals & what success looks like

Who are the targeted participants?

Who can you partner with?

Other departments, student groups,
individual staff & faculty



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More logistics for cultivation

What will you read?

Themes, representation, cost, & other considerations

Who will decide? How will you reach a consensus?

What guidance for discussion is needed?

How and where will you communicate?

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Planning for next season

Remote, in-person, or hybrid meetings?

Goal: greater student engagement

Funding to purchase copies of books for students?

Collaborate to offer incentives to attendees?

Next time:

Keep attendance stats!

Define what representation means

Invite attendees to choose from a list



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Reading list

Button Man by Andrew Gross

Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi

Searching for Sylvie Lee by Jean Kwok

The Giver of Stars by JoJo Moyes

Sharks in the Time of Saviors by Kawai Strong Washburn

Red at the Bone by Jacqueline Woodson

The background of the slide is a dense pattern of large, green, heart-shaped leaves with prominent veins, creating a natural and vibrant aesthetic.

Thank you! Questions?

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