

You are not an imposter!

Before introducing any game or interactive activity, I believe it is important to create a classroom environment in which students feel that they belong. On the first day of class, I use a short presentation adapted, with permission and credit, from a PowerPoint created by Josiah David Hester. Over the years, I have also shared my adapted version with university colleagues for use in their own classes. The presentation addresses feelings of self-doubt and imposter syndrome through simple but powerful messages such as “You belong here.” Students are invited to reflect privately on statements about their own abilities and insecurities and may share their responses if they wish. My purpose is not to teach vocabulary or grammar at this moment, but to communicate something equally important: **this classroom is a place where their voices matter**. When students feel welcomed, respected, and safe enough to make mistakes, they are more willing to participate, experiment with language, and learn from one another. In this sense, belonging is not separate from learning; **it helps create the conditions in which learning can take place**. Here is a PPT I prepared to present in the first day of class.

See the PPT here: <https://tinyurl.com/4ara6znw>