Enhancing & Tracking Student Engagement Online

FLEX Day – 1/22/2021
We'll begin at 2:00.

This session is being recorded, and will be shared after the workshop.

Hello!

I'm Adoria R. Williams

◎ Co-Chair, Merritt College Library
◎ Reference & Instruction Librarian
◎ Member, MC DE Committee & PCCD DE Committee
◎ Online instructor since 2008
◎ Canvas user since 2013

Questions

If you have a burning question that cannot wait until the end of the presentation, feel free to use the chat feature or just unmute yourself and speak.

Guiding Questions

1. Why is engagement critical for learning and online instruction?
2. What is student-center remote teaching?
3. What are the four principles of engagement?
4. What can instructors do to increase engagement?

Learning does not occur without engagement

- ✓ You can have rigor AND engagement.

- ✓ Engagement can mean a number of things

- ✓ Engagement is critical online

- ✓ Meaningful interactions ARE possible in virtual spaces

-*Sarah Rose Cavanagh*

How to Make Your Teaching More Engaging

> "Let's put an old misunderstanding to rest: "Engagement" is not a synonym for "entertainment.""

–Sarah Rose Cavanagh

How to Make Your Teaching More Engaging

To Learn, Students Need to DO Something.

At its most basic level, active learning means getting your students involved in activities in class rather than just passively listening.

Jennifer Gonzalez, editor of the teaching blog Cult of Pedagogy- blog post.
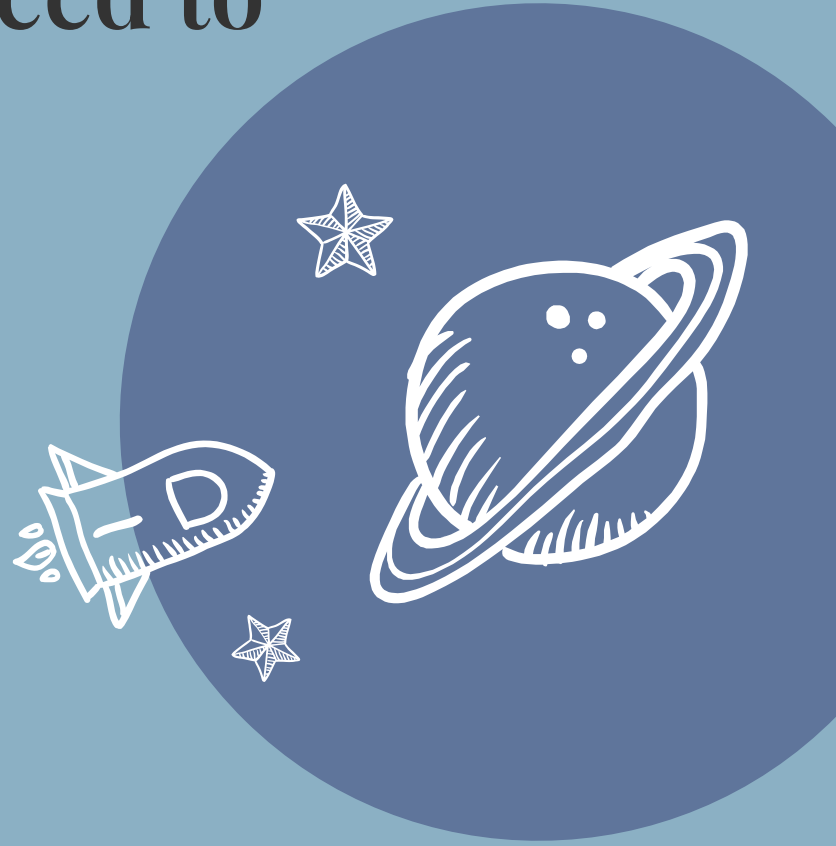
Three Questions to Consider in Student-Centered Remote Teaching

1. How will my students interact with the course content?
2. How will my students interact with other students?
3. How will my students interact with me, their instructor?

Shannon Riggs- Student-Centered Remote Teaching: Lessons Learned from Online Education

How can I start?

Let's make an action plan!

Link to Action Plan (Make a COPY and it will be saved in your GoogleDrive):
http://bit.ly/39YgiDw
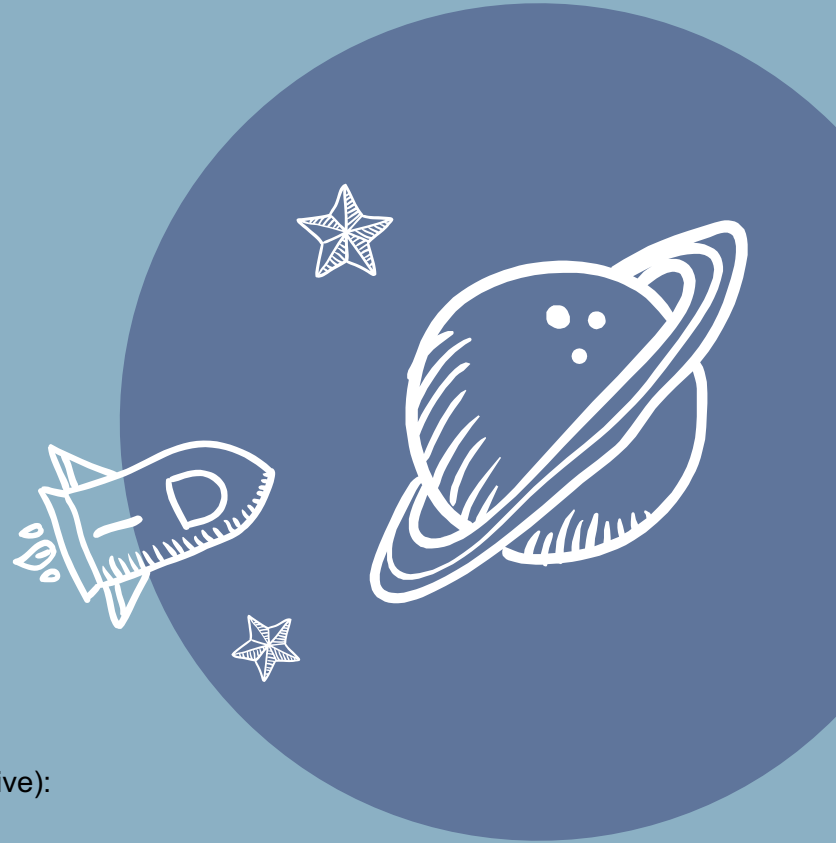
Student-Content Interaction

Student-content interaction is all about having students DO something with the course content or topic. Reading and listening to lectures will be part of many classes, but the passive receipt of information isn't sufficient to help students engage with the course and meet course learning outcomes.

Instead, we should create opportunities for active learning, which is when students DO something meaningful related to the course content and then **reflect on their learning.**

Student-Content Interaction

After students complete a course reading, ask them to do a follow-up assignment. Here are a few examples:

- Create an annotated visual on a slidedeck that shows your key take-away from the reading.
- List five of your takeaways and one question you have based on the reading.
- Identify what you as a reader find to be the clearest point in the reading and the muddiest point
- Diagram a process.
- Make an infographic (Canva (https://www.canva.com/) -- not Canvas)

Tech Tools: 1) Canva 2) Google Slides 3) Canvas Discussions

Student–Content Interaction

During (or after) a synchronous lecture via video conference, ask students to complete a activity:

- Participate in a "think-pair-share" activity: The instructor poses a question, asks students to jot some notes down independently to form initial thoughts, distributes students into breakout rooms to discuss, and then pulls the class back together as a group to discuss and synthesize.
- Complete a poll to check comprehension (Zoom).
- Illustrate ideas on the video conference whiteboard (Zoom).
- Flip the web conference "lecture" by asking students to come prepared to discuss topics they have already read up on. This gives students the opportunity to lead a discussion.
- Use collaborative tools, such as Padlet (https://padlet.com/)

Tech Tools: 1) Zoom 2) Padlet 3) Google docs for co-annotating a text

Student-Content Interaction

Make your Content/Activities Multi-Modal

Students expect learning to happen in a variety of ways and they are using video, photographs, animations and more to explain and explore the world. Instructors can use multimedia to diversify the learning in their courses.

- Slidedeck templates
- Images and videos in pages
- Images and videos in discussions

Tech Tools: 1) Canvas Pages, 2) SlidesCarnival, 3) Canvas Discussions

Student-Student Interaction

When students interact with each other, they feel like they are part of a learning community, but this interaction also helps students engage in higher-order thinking that would be more challenging to accomplish if they were studying alone. Through collaboration, students brainstorm, deliberate, disagree, compromise, and achieve consensus— all ways of thinking that are difficult to do singly.

Shannon Riggs- Student-Centered Remote Teaching: Lessons Learned from Online Education

Strategies to encourage effective student-student interaction:

- **Discussion forums**
  - Ask students to participate in a role-play or debate activity using online forums or web conference tools.
- **Peer review activities for writing assignments and projects**
- **Group projects or presentations**
- **Think-pair-share**
- **Study groups**

- **Individual projects**
  - Ask students to create a resource guide for future students.
  - Ask students to design a board game based on course content.

- **Video Conferencing**
  - Students can arrange their own meetings on Zoom. They can collaborate using Google Drive or other web-based platforms.

Tech Tools: 1) Discussions 2) Peer Review

Student-Instructor Interaction

This is the third form of engagement. It should involve more than just answering student questions. For fully online classes, instructors should provide regular, substantive, and instructor-led interactions to distinguish online classes from correspondence courses. These guidelines help online instructors provide strong student-instructor interaction.

Shannon Riggs- Student-Centered Remote Teaching: Lessons Learned from Online Education

Strategies to facilitate positive student-instructor interaction:

- Participate and engage with students about the course content via discussion forums.
- Record and post a short video to introduce a major assignment and then hold a Q&A session.
- Provide detailed feedback on assignments (written and/or recorded).

- Use voice-over screen recordings using tools such as Canvas Studio to provide demonstrations, discussions of diagrams/graphs, slides, and illustrations.
- Hold writing conferences to discuss draft assignments.
- Hold open or by-appointment office hours in ConferZoom, by phone, or by text message (Remind - https://www.remind.com/).
- Create a video (with your pets, family, etc.) in your home or a safe outdoor environment to provide social presence.

Tech Tools: 1) Canvas Studio 2) Office Hours Queue 3) Remind

4 Principles of Engagement

1. Cognitive Resources Are Limited. Emotion Trumps.

2. Your Persona and Performance Matter, Like It or Not

3. We Are Intensely Social Creatures, Motivated by Community

4. Stories Are Our 'Most Natural Form of Thought'

-Sarah Rose Cavanagh

How to Make Your Teaching More Engaging

4 Principles of Engagement

1 **Cognitive Resources Are Limited. Emotion Trumps.**

- Chunk your class up into smaller time periods.
- Choose activities and assignments that are clearly relevant to your students.
- Invite students to solve a mystery of your field.
- Interrupt the routine.
- Make it funny.

-*Sarah Rose Cavanagh*

How to Make Your Teaching More Engaging

4 Principles of Engagement

2   **Your Persona and Performance Matter, Like It or Not**

- Observe yourself in action, or get someone else to.
- Focus on your immediacy cues.
- Watch good communicators in action.
- Take risks, and freshen up your material.
- Jazz up before class.
- Get enough sleep.

-*Sarah Rose Cavanagh*

How to Make Your Teaching More Engaging

4 Principles of Engagement

3 — We Are Intensely Social Creatures, Motivated by Community

- Learn their names (and how to pronounce them).
- Make sure everyone gets a chance to contribute. Use course analytics.
- Work as a class on a shared project.
- Build community in small ways.

-Sarah Rose Cavanagh

How to Make Your Teaching More Engaging

4 Principles of Engagement

4 **Stories Are Our 'Most Natural Form of Thought'**

- Share your own stories.
- Share your field's stories.
- Your students have relevant stories to tell.

-Sarah Rose Cavanagh

How to Make Your Teaching More Engaging

How can you get to know your students?

- Intro videos from students
- Intros surveys
- Check in personally with students once you know their circumstances
- Communicating often and early, questions and emails that show you're interested
- Show your face as often as possible- welcome videos, video conferencing
- WiFi challenges- Design your course knowing that inequities exist and be inclusive, think about being mobile friendly

How do you make adjustments given the COVID circumstances?

- Consider reducing workload, if you cannot, then be flexible on attendance and deadlines
- Everything is taking faculty 3x as long. It takes students that amount of time or more so consider this when thinking about workload
- Give assignments that allow you to provide personalized feedback
- Scale back- instead of several individual assignments, break a large assignment into smaller pieces

5 Strategies That Online Students Ranked as "Most Important"

1. The instructor posts/emails regular reminders.

2. The instructor posts grading rubrics for all assignments.

3. Students work on realistic scenarios to apply content

   (e.g., case studies, reports, research papers).

4. Discussions are structured with guiding questions/

   prompts to deepen their understanding of the content.

5. The instructor creates a forum for students to contact

   the instructor with questions about the course.

—Online Learning Journal, March 2018

We want your feedback!

Please complete the feedback form you will receive via email.

Thank you for attending!