

# ENRICH YOUR ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

## *12 Tips for Keeping it Student Centered*

Video lectures may have worked as a stop-gap measure in the emergency move to transition to remote learning, but they don't cut it for the long term. Here are eleven ways to bring online courses to the next level.



### POST TEXT OR VIDEO-BASED TIMELY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Video-based announcements are a great way for students to "see" you, know you are with them, and give timely info. Let your students know you are right there with them in the class by posting video summaries of the previous week's assignments and thoughts on how it went. You can do this with ease through Kaltura Capture. Learn more about Kaltura through Digital Learning's website!

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### STOP LECTURING

You want your students to be actively engaged in the educational process. Even if your classroom lectures were fantastic, they do not typically translate well to an online modality. Few online students would be able to concentrate for the full 50 to 75 minutes of a normal classroom lecture. Take breaks every 15 minutes. Ask for student questions or randomly call on them. Or ask them a question and solicit student feedback. Find other tools to break up the classroom time like live polling. Better yet, prerecord your short lectures in Kaltura and use the class time for engaging discussions and activity.

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### GET STUDENTS INVOLVED

At least once every two weeks, structure your class to include student presentations. This ensures that your class focuses on student involvement rather than lectures. Or present students with a problem and ask them to work together in Microsoft Teams groups, and then have several students report their solutions back to the class. Ask students a question and ask them to take five minutes to search for solutions online. Then have them present answers to the class. Or you can randomly call on students. That ensures that they participate and are listening, rather than doing something else online.



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## SOLICIT FEEDBACK

Using tools like Teams polls, Microsoft Forms or Canvas quizzes, ask students questions and use their feedback to build your lectures. Pre-load the polls or quizzes so they work more smoothly. You can ask questions about reading for this week's material or based on last week's homework, and then review or move on depending on the level of mastery of your students.

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## THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

Your students are probably familiar with online games like Kahoot. Take Advantage of that and create an online game for your students, by asking questions about material in your course. Play it with them during class or for 10 minutes during your office hours and give the three top winners bonus points in your course. You may have some students create their own Kahoots for the topic to be presented in class.

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## ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO SELF-ASSESS

With each week's assignment, provide a 10-question self-graded quiz. Let students know that their scores on the quiz will not count for final grades - but provide answers explaining the correct answer and linking each question to reading materials, so that students can review material they got wrong and understand why they did not answer the question correctly. Provide a quiz each week but also include questions on material learned in previous weeks. There's lots of data that indicates that this approach enhances student learning and retention, and you can send a summary of the results through a video announcement.

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## USE COLLABORATIVE TOOLS

Encourage students to work together as partners to solve problems. Often faculty members are reluctant to have students collaborate because one student shoulders the burden for the team. Particularly if you build collaborative work into your online class time, you can evaluate how the collaboration is working. You can also provide ideas and suggestions for the group. If students develop material together, you can require them to use Box and include you in the share document. That way you can monitor the progress of their collaborative project and ensure that everyone contributed. Tools like Flip and Padlet are fantastic ways to keep students connected.



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## INVITE LEARNERS TO CONTRIBUTE

Having students contribute their knowledge by making resources or hosting online group study sessions is another way to empower them. Task-based learning can provide the learners with a real, relevant outcome which can be shared with other learners who are earlier in their learner journey to inspire them and help with their studies.

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## ENCOURAGE PEER EVALUATION

A classic classroom technique that works a treat online. Enabling learners to review each other's work reinforces their understanding of what they are doing and encourages a culture of sharing which can be valuable in spreading best-practice.

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## USE DATA ANALYTICS

**Canvas** and **Kaltura** provide faculty with rich data that can give insight into student engagement with the course content. Analyze what content your students are viewing, how often they are interacting with it, and use the results to modify your course and communicate with your students.

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## BUILD SOCIAL COMMUNITIES

At the beginning of the semester, have each student introduce themselves in a 90 second video using Flipgrid. Assign students to respond to others in the same way. Set expectations for the videos and be clear about how you'd like them to respond. Use this strategy throughout the semester to keep students communicating. Learn how create a Flip assignment in Canvas.

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## MAKE IT COMPETITIVE

Make it competitive, spotlight students who went above and beyond for an assignment, it will create a sense of competition as students will want to see their work in the spotlight.