

Increasing Social Presence in Online Courses

Job Aid



Activities

- Implement icebreakers at the beginning of the course
 - Create asynchronous games for students throughout the semester
 - Create a “Scholar Holler” or a Student of the Month board
 - Create a discussion forum for students to share interesting resources
 - Send an announcement to motivate students, thank students, explain a concept
 - Record a summary of main takeaways of the week(s)
 -
-

Assignments

- Include many reflective assignments
 - Include peer feedback assignments
 - Use authentic content for assignments and class discussions
 - Create collaborative group assignments
 - Require distributed participations in online discussions
 - Allow students to select a topic, tool, or question from a list of options
 - Encourage/require students to use the Anticipation Guide
 - Explain the “What” and “Why” for each assignment
 -
-

Communication

- Make direct, timely comments about student’s work and posts
 - Create a space in Canvas for students to hangout and chat
 - Turn on the chat function in Canvas to chat with your students
 - Use WhatsApp to communicate with and check on students
 - Provide virtual office hours
 - Remind students constantly about online discussion etiquette
 - Encourage students to share personal experiences about weekly topics
 - Provide partial, formative feedback on student’s paper/project
 - Take an active role in discussion boards and VT discussions
 - Add some humor in your comments to students
 - Read students’ posts and ask them to elaborate or explain
 - Start your recorded lecture with a humorous statement or story
 - Send a recorded video announcement instead of text
 - Record your own course introduction video
 - Refer to your class as *Our Community* or *Our Learning Community* when communicating with students
 -
-

Presentation

- Dividing content/lecture into manageable chunks
 - Using different mediums to deliver lectures
 - Use different voice pitches when recording lectures
 - Add a funny image to your slides
 - Create a Lecture Guide for your students
 -
-