

# 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)
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### 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
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### 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
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### 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
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