

Remaining Present Online

TIPS TO CONNECT WITH STUDENTS

Teacher presence in the online classroom isn't a luxury—it's a necessity. When learners feel your investment in them, they are willing to invest more of their time. By being present, engaged, and attentive, we build trust with our learners, which is the foundation for improved learning performance.

CONNECT with your online students using the following guidelines:

Opportunity Online learning does not mean one-way learning. It's an opportunity to engage students in a learning-delivery method that is convenient for some and necessary for others due to schedules and proximity. Just be sure the connections are meaningful to your learning objectives and not simply busy work.

Notice Pay attention to each student and personalize your messages and feedback. It takes less than 30 seconds to reach out to a learner. If you have 70 learners, that equates to only 35 minutes a week.

Continuous Communication

The cornerstone of online presence is follow-up and follow-through. Reply to learner posts, comments, emails, and requests fully and promptly.

Additional Resource

Kennedy, M. (January/February 2019). Small Bites. *Chief Learning Officer*, 11.

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Consistency Set weekly hours devoted solely to the online class. Tell your students your schedule and stick to it. If a schedule change is needed, notify your students with as much advance warning as possible.

Notes Giving and getting feedback is especially important in the virtual classroom. When providing feedback, remember the importance of providing helpful and specific suggestions for improvement.

Exchange While getting to know your students, allow them to get to know you. Not only are online communications from strangers impersonal, but they can also be damaging to the student's motivation.

Technology Technology might not be the answer to connecting with every learner. A face-to-face meeting, video call, or phone call might mean the world to some students.



JUDY NEVILLE, BS
UNMC College of Pharmacy



RUSSELL BUZALCO, PhD
UNMC College of Medicine