The Coaching Chronicles

ISSUE 1 VOLUME 24

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ARE COMING...

Coming in August, the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) will host a series of roundtable discussions on various topics. These discussions are simply a forum for conversation between colleagues. The information will be used to inform and guide future trainings and instructional development offerings.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Topic #1: COVID-19 Classroom

Tuesday August 25 3:30pm-4:30pm
Friday August 28 12:00pm-1:00pm
Wednesday September 2 10:00am-11:00am

YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED!

The Center for Academic Excellence needs your input! Whether you have ever read the newsletter, had a coaching session or maybe even participated in the Coffee with the Coaches Chat, YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED. Click the button above, or link below.

https://nam12.safelinks.protecti… nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com

ONLINE STUDENTS DON'T HAVE TO WORK SOLO

Group projects in online classes … www.insidehighered.com

Group projects might seem more daunting in an online format, but instructors say they've found ways to foster collaboration and avoid logistical roadblocks.

GROUP PROJECTS IN THE ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

This quick video will give you some tips on how to set up your group work in an online environment!

Group projects in the online learning environment - Question and Answers | Coursera

Group projects in the online learn… www.coursera.org

Video created by UNSW Sydney (The University of New South Wales) for the course "Learning to Teach Online". Simon and Negin answered the top questions asked of them in previously run versions of this course via video. Although from previous ...

Why Collaborate Online

"Collaborative activities can alleviate feelings of isolation by purposefully connecting learners with one another through various learning activities and promoting interdependence" (Palloff & Pratt, 2007, p.159

Collaboration promotes the following skills:

- Development of critical thinking skills
- Co-creation of knowledge and meaning
- Reflection
- Transformative learning (Palloff and Pratt, 2005. p.4)

COLLABORATION IN ONLINE CLASSES

Build strong group interdependence

One design goal for any online group activity should be to build strong group interdependence. For example, offer bonus points to a group if all members score above a certain grade on an assignment, test, or paper. This can motivate better-prepared students to help and encourage members who may not meet the goal—and the less-prepared students are likely to work harder so they don't disappoint the group.

Keep groups small

Group members need to interact frequently; a good guideline is three to five members.

Establish peer evaluation

Peer evaluation helps to build team skills because it lets students reflect on their process and outcomes, and provides instructors with continuous feedback. Faculty can survey students not just at the end of a project, but also 25 to 30

percent into the process, when students can learn from the feedback and make adjustments. Ask:

- Did all members of the group contribute?
- What could be done next time to make the group function better?
- What were the most important things I learned?
- What contributions did I make?

Form diverse groups

Deliberately mixing students—based on achievement level, gender, ethnicity, academic interests, learning styles, or other relevant factors—typically enables students to work constructively with others who bring different strengths and approaches to their learning tasks.

COLLABORATION TOOLS

1. Video Conferencing
Video conferencing software is the key to make synchronous distance learning possible. Without it, online programs are limited to self-paced programs without individual-to-instructor interaction. Many video conferencing services allow you to record your session so you can distribute the lesson recording to students so they can reference it again.

2. Lesson Recording and Video Creation Tools
The term "flipped classroom" is used to describe a learning environment where teachers generate their own instructional content. There are a variety of video creation tools and

screen recording software that allows them to create lessons that students can learn from time and again.

3. Learning Management System (LMS)
Use a learning management system (LMS) like Canvas, Blackboard, or Google Classroom to make sure students can easily access all class materials in one place. Many learning management systems often have interactive features like message boards and virtual office hours to help students and teachers learn and communicate effectively. Make sure students have their notifications turned on so they know when an update or new content has been posted.

4. Cloud-Storage Tools
In addition to a learning management system, you'll likely want a shared drive where classroom materials can be accessed online. Tools like Google Drive and Dropbox give you the ability to store and share files, and students can download resources directly to their devices.

5. Exam and Assessment Software
Whether you're quizzing students to check their knowledge on a certain topic or distributing a midterm or final exam, you'll need an exam software to evaluate students. Many of these tools include built-in grading features so you can assess how well students have understood the material.

6. Scheduling Tools
Students need access to their instructors and advisors just like traditional students. Invest in a scheduling platform so students can schedule time with faculty and staff based on their availability. For example, Google Calendar offers specific features for teachers where they can create a classroom calendar to create appointment slots for virtual office hours or to share classwork due dates and reminders.

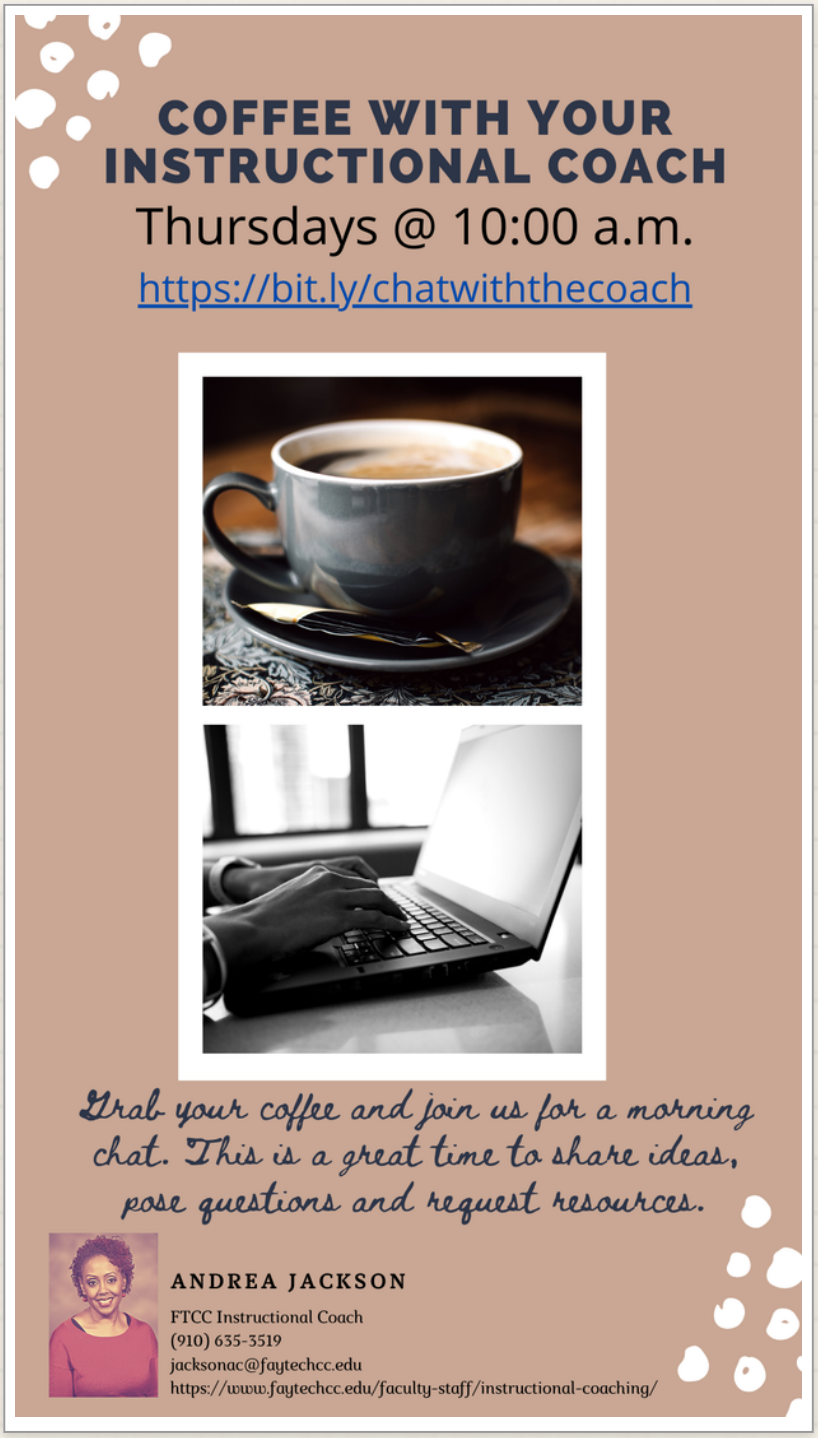
7. Library Resources
Many university libraries offer online resources so students can check out materials and read and research from their laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Ensure your students are set up with a library card to local libraries so they can access online books and resources as well. Don't forget about other free online databases and digital libraries.
By communicating expectations and using these tools and resources, you'll keep your class connected and create a collaborative online learning environment.

BLACKBOARD HOW-TO VIDEOS

Instructors: Building Your Course www.youtube.com

A set of short video tutorials that help instructors build online courses using Blackboard Learn.

COFFEE WITH THE COACH



WHEN

THURSDAY, AUG. 20TH, 10-11AM

WHERE

BLACKBOARD COLLABORATE

MORE INFORMATION

Grab your coffee and join the Instructional Coaches for a morning chat. This is a great time to share ideas, pose questions and request resources.

https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/2b6df82b335a4511a1b167930b532682

SCHEDULE A COACHING SESSION

Do you have specific questions you want to have addressed? Would you like a one-on-one conversation with your Instructional Coach to get some ideas regarding instructional strategies?

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