The Coaching Chronicles

Issue 1 Vol 12

Welcome to ONLINE TEACHING 101

As we move forward with online platforms, it is imperative to prepare ourselves and courses to meet not only our high expectations but to provide students with the engaging educational experiences they deserve.

Awesome topics will be covered in the weekly newsletter as well as discussed in the *Coffee with Coaches Chat*. Faculty can then schedule a coaching session using the SignUp Genius with the Instructional Coach.

Weekly Topics♡

To assist with your preparation for upcoming Online Courses, there will be weekly topics presented in the newsletter. These same topics will be discussed in the Coffee with the Coaches chats on Wednesday. Faculty will have the option of signing up for individual coaching sessions as well.

Be Present

"No matter where teaching and learning take place, the importance of the faculty member being there and being mentally present with the students is the most important thing they can do," said Boettcher, of Designing for Learning, her Tallahassee, Fla.-based elearning consulting firm.

That doesn't mean simply responding to questions that students post online. Boettcher said instructors should have a "social presence" in their online classrooms, and encourage students to do the same. She suggested faculty members post their bios in the classroom and also do "some cocktail-party sharing" by telling students which books they are reading and the topic of their research. They also can post photos of themselves working on their laptop at a coffee shop or mention something interesting that happened over the weekend.

"Students should have a well-rounded idea of who [their professors are] as people," Boettcher said.

Parse Your Time

All of the authors agreed that instructor presence is critical to student success in a virtual class. Still, noted Conrad: "Online courses can really consume you; I know this from experience."

Responding to every discussion board post by every student in an online class "will crush you," King agreed. "Manage your time in a reasonable way. Don't be available 24/7. Don't turn your class into a one-on-one interaction with 30 students."

Conrad agreed. "Institutions think a faculty member needs to respond to everything" each student posts online. "That's not the way it is."

Conrad, who said she "picks and chooses" what she responds to, noted that if the instructor comments on every post, students tend to write their posts for the instructor, and not for other students. Online discussions, she said, should be between students.

Still, she said, the instructor "cannot simply let a course run itself. You're there as much as you are in a regular classroom. But that doesn't mean you're in the course 24/7. Pick and choose where you insert your voice."

Tips for Tools that Work:

There are a number of technology tools that can promote instructor presence. However, faculty already have some simple strategies at their disposal to promote their presence in an online course. Some practices that promote instructor presence can include:

- Sending out welcome letters – This will go a long way with your students.

- Posting announcements highlighting connections between course content, activities, and assignments.
- Facilitating in-depth thinking through online discussions.
- Providing detailed specific feedback
- Reaching out to struggling students
- Making connections to real world applications and providing clarification when needed.

Sign up for free Online Learning webinars here:

FREE Webinar: Onlin...

shakeuplearning.com

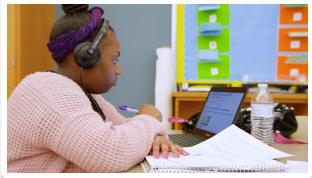
Join me for this free webinar with Jennifer Pearson, an American teacher who evacuated from China because of the Corona Virus. Jennifer shares best practices and tips for online learning and home learning with students during extended school closures, like the coronavirus.

Online Learning Podcast

TOPcast ep61: Beyond...

cdl.ucf.edu

Plan how online course technologies can help maintain or resume operations when higher ed institutions face crises.



A 5-Step Guide to Ma...

www.edutopia.org

Replacing your lectures with self-made videos can boost students' engagement and free you up to work with them directly.

TeachersFirst

Free Online resources available for several digital learning topics such as: Digital Story Telling, Google Tools, Flipped Learning, VR, Twitter Chats, and much more!

Digital Professional Learning Community

Join Digital Learning & Leadership

Digital Learning & Leadership is a free professional learning community (PLC) that focuses on using best practices to enhance teaching with technology. This PLC is sponsored by Common Sense Education.

Coffee with the Coaches

When

Wednesday, May 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

Quick Question....

Take a moment to answer this survey. This will help to provide information geared towards your specific needs!

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?

Use the SignUp Genius to schedule a session!

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