

Suggested Methods for Increasing Student Engagement in Teaching

Traditional Activity	Innovative Alternative
<p>Course Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students forget or are reluctant to check Blackboard or Email. 	<p>Take advantage of Quip or Zoom's mobile notification capabilities to instantly broadcast course announcements.</p>
<p>Discussion Boards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students equate discussions with essays, setting aside time to 'sit and get them over with.' Students struggle to make posts seem sincere or original. 	<p>For Student/Teacher Introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students create an Adobe Spark Video to introduce themselves using their own voice and images. Create a VoiceThread post, allowing students to introduce themselves by voice and create a sense of community. <p>For Posting Answers and Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Quip's 'living document' and instant mobile notifications to allow students a variety of ways to contribute and comment on ideas and information. Create a VoiceThread, allowing students to communicate with audio and add personality to the assignment. <p>For Sharing Personal Experiences or Narratives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students use Adobe Spark Page or Adobe Spark Video to tell their story with their own images and/or voice. Students create/manage their own Google Site or Blog.
<p>Essay Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Their overuse often allows stress and format requirements to overshadow content comprehension. 	<p>Use Quip to help students compartmentalize and absorb content as they work together to create useful, informative documents meant to be read by not only their instructor, but also their peers, and other potentially interested parties.</p>
<p>Group Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students sometimes don't know where to start or how to divide responsibilities. It can be difficult to gauge individual contributions to a group project. 	<p>For brainstorming or visual planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple students can simultaneously work on Prezis or Lucidcharts to organize tasks and information. <p>For written submissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors can share access to Quip's 'living documents,' allowing them to see individual student contributions.
<p>Office Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face meetings are not always a possibility for online courses. 	<p>Invite students to scheduled meets using Zoom and take advantage of its electronic whiteboard feature.</p>
<p>Online Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrity cannot be enforced- students skim readings as they quiz to pinpoint answers. 	<p>For Quizzes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign an EDpuzzle video to keep students at a pace appropriate to the content while emphasizing important points and recording informal feedback help you determine which topics need reinforcing. <p>For Tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign individualized tasks to students that require higher-order thinking. Have students prove content-comprehension through application in a detailed 'final product.'
<p>Sharing PowerPoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can run into a host of problems when attempting to access presentations due to incompatibilities in software, web browser settings, and/or mobile devices. 	<p>Create or recreate presentations in Adobe SparkPage, which is web-based and mobile-friendly.</p> <p>Import a PowerPoint into Explain Everything to create a narrated video, which is much easier to share with students.</p> <p>Attempt to transfer an existing presentation into the web-based Microsoft Sway. (Old PowerPoint formatting may need to be fixed.)</p>