

October First Tuesday at Two- Online Student Engagement

The October First Tuesday at Two meeting was focused on increasing student engagement in online classes. Dr. Eric Rapp started the meeting out with some quick background data on how effect size does impact learning. There were discussions on how young learners assimilate information easier when multimedia effects are included. Rapp has a collection of foundational resource articles on the topic of why students learn better with multimedia practices. If colleagues are interested in reading those articles, please contact Dr. Rapp.

After the base conversation of why multimedia resources are beneficial had been discussed, the topic shifted to what methods people had been using in their online courses. Adding an introductory video to a class is a great way for instructors to make a positive first impression on students. In the introduction the instructor can introduce themselves, discuss the course itself including layouts, time frames, and expectations.

More CSC instructors are getting positive student feedback about weekly overview videos. This is a simple 1–3-minute video where the instructor does an overview of what the class will be reading, learning, and doing that week. It may provide quick examples of assignment expectations. This way students see what to expect and feel more confident in what they will be doing. Dr. Rapp creates an e-book (using an epub3 format) including all his class resources and provides that to his students.

Another tip that was mentioned was doing video responses to student assignment submissions in SpeedGrader. Some faculty have a few standard grading responses they use for an assignment and tag those into the SpeedGrader comments. It was discussed that the same thing could be done with videos (creating a few standardized response videos that the instructor could choose from to include in a SpeedGrader response) to help humanize the instructor interactions with students in online courses.

Ultimately the conversations came down with finding ways to keep students engaged. November's meeting will be Tuesday, November 5th at 2 p.m. in the LLC Room 109 with the topic of discussion revolving around using small workstations in the library to increase student engagement with face-to-face courses. We would love to see instructors come and learn more about this great resource and discuss other elements of engagement for face-to-face learning. Instructors, do you have tips for in-person learning student engagement? Please share your tips!