Maintaining student engagement remotely

Thank you for signing up for this webinar.

In the session we will primarily be looking at ways to manage the conversation during live online lecture time to get students past the fabled short attention spans online and make the most of your time together.

To make the session accessible for everyone and the various tools they might be using, we will be focussing on just the Chat box during the session but the same principles apply to using live quizzes and polls. The difference is that quizzes and polls allow anonymity, which has been shown to encourage people who would ordinarily not have the confidence to speak up in (face to face) class to contribute. In addition, they also furnish you with much better quantitative data on numbers of people who have responded. Without the anonymity however, Chat allows you to connect with your students on a much more individual level and it is that idea of connection that we will be exploring in detail together.

The Tech

What to use

For this week’s session, the tech is pretty simple and you’re probably already familiar with it.

If you’d like to incorporate what I do in the session, you will need web conferencing software with Chat visible. You may also wish to use polls/quizzes. By now, I’m sure you have delivered an online lecture or two already and your institution most likely provides support on these so check out their website before you do anything else. If you are working independently, the most well-known platforms are Zoom, Google Meet, MS Teams and Adobe Connect. Adobe has the best full suite of integrated teaching tools but MS Teams is best for Accessibility and can incorporate multiple apps. Like Adobe, Zoom has breakout room which are great for small group discussion.

How to use it

The majority of the ‘how to’ support below is in the form of screencasts. Screencasts are a type of video you may wish to use with your students. More on this in Session 2: Communicating your ideas

Adobe Connect

As a very flexible teaching tool is the most complex to get set up on. LinkedIn Learning/Lynda.com has an excellent set of videos on using Adobe Connect. I found the set of videos on breakout rooms really helpful.

Teams

There’s a quick overview of how to set up a Teams meeting on the Microsoft YouTube Channel

Zoom

Their support centre provide a great set of very simple video tutorials on Zoom functionality

Google Meet

Google’s support centre provides both video tutorials and cheat sheets on how to use Google Meet
Pre-Reading

None of the articles below are obligatory reading but will help contextualise the webinar if you manage to get to some of them. The articles come from EdSurge and ALT, both excellent sources of support and guidance and worth following.

EdSurge

*How to Engage Students and Support Learning in Large Classes*  
(5 minutes)

This article appeared on EdSurge in August last year. It’s about teaching large classes face to face. There are several points of crossover between the examples in the article and delivering lectures online.

Read the article and think about what the crossover points might be? Which of the strategies have you already employed in your online lectures so far? During the webinar, pay attention to which of these strategies are in use and decide whether you agree with them.

Association for Learning Technology

*When the VLE becomes your campus: some thoughts on engaging learners online*  
(5 minutes)

This article looks at engaging learners in online courses. Look at how much screen time is devoted to live online lectures. What does this tell you?

Faculty Focus

*Synchronous Online Classes: 10 Tips for Engaging Students*  
(5 minutes)

This article is a few years old but lists a number of best practices you can easily incorporate into your remote teaching.

Task

Identify an upcoming lecture that you have already planned or thought about. Read through your notes before the webinar so that you have them in mind during the session. That way you can assess the appropriacy the ideas we discuss for that lecture content in particular.

Pre-session survey

Please fill in the [pre-session survey](#) before you attend the session. This will help guide the direction of the webinar and the subsequent sessions in the series.

I look forward to ‘meeting’ you online!