

Technology-Enhanced Strategies to Engage Your Students

Barriers to Engagement

- Social: Feeling Isolated, Lacking Interaction, Missing Social Context Cues
- Administrative: Missing directions / lack of clear expectations, Lacking timely feedback
- Motivation: Lacking self-direction, Finding environment boring or overwhelming

Goals To Reduce Barriers

- Make students feel like part of a community
- Improve interaction between you and students
- Provide support and opportunities to increase student self-direction
- Spice up the online environment w/ multimedia

Tech-Enhanced Strategies

1. Make first contact with students. Send an *email* and let them know you're there
2. Use the first week of class to get to know one another. Assign introductory *discussion posts* or create *voki* introductions.
3. Create a community. Start a class *blog* so people can share information, resources, tips, etc. If you use blogger, the voki introductions can be added to the blog page.
4. Send reminders and updates. Use *course homepage, blog*, or *voki* for course announcements about upcoming assignments, clarifying assignment requirements, etc.
5. Stay in contact and make students feel you're there for them. Use *Skype* or other IM tool as a means of communication in addition to email.
6. Provide feedback often and in a variety of ways. Aside from the standard comments on papers and projects, reply to *discussion posts*, send encouraging *email*, post class feedback in course announcement area, *Skype* a student for one-on-one consult.
7. Break larger projects into smaller assignments and more frequent due dates. Use *Google Docs* or another *wiki* to allow for drafts, revisions, and final papers.
8. Repeat yourself. Use *skype, email, discussion posts*, or course announcement area or *blog* to re-iterate assignment directions and expectations.
9. Use a variety of resources. Textbooks are fine, but *podcasts, blogs, videos*, and other *multimedia elements* really make content come alive.
10. Show your excitement! Create a *podcast* about what you've been reading/researching lately. Share interesting articles or news about your field. Create a *blog* or *startpage* (pageflakes or protopage) that collects all your resources in one area and link it to the class blog or your course homepage.

Tools To Get Started

Skype: <http://www.skype.com>
Blogger: <http://www.blogger.com>
Flixn: <http://flixn.com>
Voki: <http://www.voki.com>
Protopage: <http://protopage.com>
Pageflakes: <http://www.pageflakes.com>

Tech Help

My blog: <http://tektrekker.wordpress.com>
(general strategies)
NMSU eLearning Wiki: <http://nmsu-elearning.near-time.net/wiki/category/tech-tutorials>

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