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Strategies for Engagement: Use conversation through different communication tools to facilitate dialogue, increase student investment, and create a sense of community.

1. Use Blackboard Discussion Tools to Engage the Entire Class Community
 - a. Forums: Split a large group into smaller groups to create manageable conversation
 - b. Blogs: Provides a table of contents to organize ongoing discussion
 - c. Content: Guide conversation by monitoring conversation and/or by having students provide questions to help lead and generate discussion.

2. Supporting Instructor-Student Discussion
 - a. Office Hour Sign-up via Calendly
 - i. Creates accessible and stream-lined sign-up for office hours
 - ii. Allows students to stay on video or off (like a phone call)
 - iii. Accessible on any device
 - iv. Coordinates and organizes office hour calls
 - v. Allows instructor to share screen to discuss assignments or student work

3. Promoting Discussion Between Student Pairs or Small Groups
 - a. Academic accountability partners (optional/external to course but perhaps incentivized)
 - i. Creates connection opportunities for students
 - ii. Set up using FlipGrid or Microsoft Teams through Blackboard to allow for student meetings while protecting privacy

By intentionally using discussion for the entire class, between an instructor and individual students, and for students as pairs or small groups, students experience the classroom community and have a chance to discuss content and assignments. Overall, making participation easier through different avenues of discussions supports student investment and ultimate success.