

Engaging Students in Online Classes

Creating the Environment of Engagement

- Welcome Letter/e-mail
- Welcome Announcement
- Welcome Thread
 - Initial post
 - Responding to all student introductions
 - Requiring students to reply to a couple of the peers' posts.

Using Discussions for Engagement

- Create discussion questions that create conversation
- Require both an initial post and replies to other posts, with the initial post having an earlier due date
- Engage in & model how to reply to discussions
- Ask additional questions
- Address students by name
- Be supportive
- If appropriate use current events or culturally relevant examples

Simulations

- As discussion topics
- As other kinds of assignments.
- As a combined discussion/assignment

Grading

- Make activities requiring engagement be worth a significant part of the grade
- Use rubric so students know what is expected for such activities
- When giving feedback along with offering reasons for lost points, find something positive to say.