



Building a Supportive Presence

One of the greatest misconceptions about the online learning environment is that instructors have minimal interaction in the course space and students once they create content and populate the Learning Management System (LMS). This leads to perceptions from both faculty and students that online courses are less difficult, less engaging, less impactful, and less credible. Below are some strategies for supporting and engaging students through building your presence.

Foster Authenticity

- Build opportunities for genuine connections from the start of the term.
- Give opportunities for reflection.
- Build transparency by sharing relevant personal anecdotes.
- Read: [Creating a Supportive Climate for Engagement](#)

Build a Sense of Community

- Encourage participation and questions.
- Use a “Ask the Instructor” discussion board.
- Acknowledge and support diversity.
- Send announcements through the LMS with regular updates.
- Read: [Creating Community in the Online Learning Environment](#)

Set Clear and Consistent Expectations

- Provide a clear Instructor Interaction Policy in your syllabus and/or in a video.
- Provide clear goals and instructions.
- Use rubrics with clearly written goals and provide them to student in advance.
- Discuss the course approach and goals.
- Read: [Setting Clear Expectations](#)

Provide Meaningful and Timely Feedback

- Use language from rubrics to communicate expectations.
- Incorporate self and peer assessments.
- Respond to student work quickly and with personalized feedback.
- Use positive language.
- Use audio and/or video feedback.
- Use announcements to address recurring misconceptions.
- Read: [Scalable Strategies for Delivering Feedback](#)

Let's explore the possibilities together!