Essentials of Teaching and Learning Online
University of California - Merced

This tip sheet is designed for faculty and TA's teaching online. For those new to the virtual classroom, this research-based content offers pedagogical strategies and basic building blocks proven to offer efficacy in contributing to student engagement and successfully achieving intended learning outcomes.

Online Teaching Best Practices

This adapted list offers practical solutions, instructional strategies and best practices for virtual classrooms. The original source is the book Online Teaching at Its Best (2018).

Online Teaching At Its Best list

Developing Interactivity

Interactivity facilitates student engagement and learning, and in a virtual classroom, can propel students to delve into new technologies and build upon their knowledge, competencies & experience. Learning that is intensely practical and applicable to the real world is important to students. This list of interactivity options was adapted from the book Online Learning at Its Best (2018).

Developing Interactivity list

Strategies for Teaching First-Generation College Students

Exceptional research-based strategies on teaching First-Generation college students. (Source: Online Guide by Vanderbilt University under Creative Commons licensing**)**

Scroll to 'In the Classroom' -half-way down the page

Building an Online Learning Community

If you are seeking a champion contributor to evidence-based practices that facilitates successful learning and is a student favorite in the virtual classroom, give building an online learning community a go. This rubric (or a version of it) could be used in a hybrid or online course, discussion board or syllabus to set forth expectations for what building an online learning community entails.

Rubric-building an online learning community

Discussion Boards and Experiential Learning

This article was published in Distance Learning and offers strategies, management techniques and a sample rubric. For those unfamiliar with how to leverage the online discussion board to contribute to learning and engagement, this article offers helpful tips and guidance.

Discussion Boards article

Principles of Andragogy and Pedagogy

This simple table distinguishes effective approaches for teaching adults and the more traditional methods for teaching children. The original source is a book entitled The Blended Course Design Workbook (2017).

Andragogy & Pedagogy table

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About the Instructional Design and Faculty Support Community of Practice
IDFS a system-wide community of instructional designers, technologists and faculty support specialists who meet regularly to discuss trends in pedagogy, design materials and share resources for the benefit of UC faculty and students.