Using technology to enhance faculty / student connection in the online classroom: A catalyst to improving student success

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# Introduction

### Trends in Higher Ed

- ✓ Continued growth and popularity
- ✓ National interest in student success
- ✓ Data
- ✓ Technology
- ✓ Building connections

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# **Connection Defined**

- Connections continue to be an important part of education and student success. This is true of both online (Weller, 2007) and traditional classrooms (Kop, 2011).
- Students want connections with their peers, the content, and their faculty. And technology is a key component (Kelly, 2017).
- Past research (Baumeister, 1995; Bergin & Bergin, 2009; Teven & McCroskey, 1997) has shown that student connections influence students perceptions and are key factors in student success.
- The Challenge building and sustaining rapport online.

# Common Technology Tools

Which of the following common online classroom technology tools have you used to communicate with students?

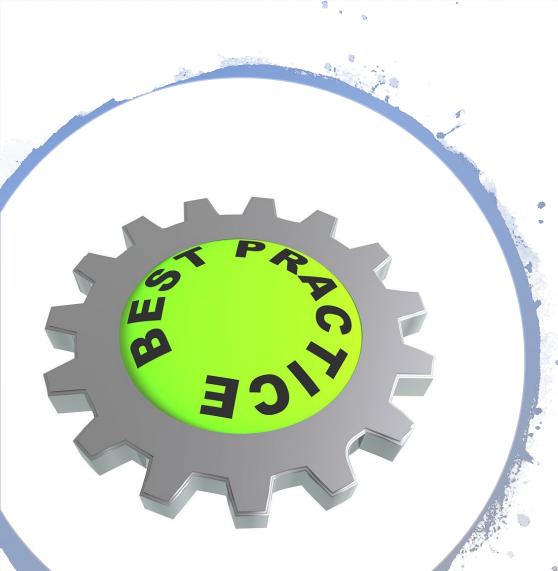
- Announcements
- Written guidance/lectures
- Live or recorded guidance/lectures
- Integrated rubrics
- Use of integrated LMS apps (Collaborate, CVITAS etc.)
- Email



# Additional Technology Tools

- Which of the following additional online classroom technology tools have you used to communicate with students?
- Video feedback
- Student Alerts (via the gradebook or classroom)
- Text messaging
- Student learning communities
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.)
- Gamification elements (badges, certificate of achievements etc.)





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# Considerations and Recommendations

- Quality vs. Quantity
- Balance / ADA Especially with video
- Helping students make connections with the material
- Mindful of communication style in public (discussion or live sessions) and private settings (gradebook)
- Careful not to overwhelm (the student or others on mass communications)



### Further Research

- Specific practices connected to building rapport and success outcomes
- Utilization of specific technology and how that might impact course retention or success rates

# Technology to check out: For Instructors:

- **SMMRY**: <u>https://smmry.com/</u> : Summarizes any text or webpage.
- **Viewpure**: <u>http://viewpure.com/</u> : Great for Youtube videos, it removes add/clutter.
- **60 Cities**: <u>https://www.360cities.net/</u>: and Google Earth: <u>https://www.google.com/earth/</u>.
- **Edpuzzle**: <u>https://edpuzzle.com/</u> : Make videos you are already using interactive.
- Listenwise: <u>https://listenwise.com/</u> : Allows you to add audio components.
- Smore: <u>https://www.smore.com/</u> : Easy to create newsletters.
- Flipgrid: https://flipgrid.com/ : Facilitate video discussions.
- **Yellowdig:** <u>https://yellowdig.com/</u> : Engagement platform.
- Two free phone apps: Typorama / Font Candy.

# Technology to check out: For students:

- **Flipgrid:** <u>https://flipgrid.com/</u> : Facilitate video discussions.
- **My Homework:** <u>https://myhomeworkapp.com/</u> : Student planner app.
- Todoist: <u>https://todoist.com/</u>: Students can manage multiple tasks—school, work, personal—and assign a task to its corresponding project.
- Trello: <u>https://trello.com</u>: "Drag and drop" white board.
- Knewton: <u>https://www.knewton.com/</u> : Adaptive learning teaching tool.
- **StudySync:** <u>https://www.studysync.com/</u> : Writing enrichment.
- **Socrative:** <u>https://www.socrative.com/</u> : App provides games and exercises.

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