

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



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Island#/media/File:Fernando_noronha.jpg



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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.)



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)



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

Technology to check out:

For students:

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

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