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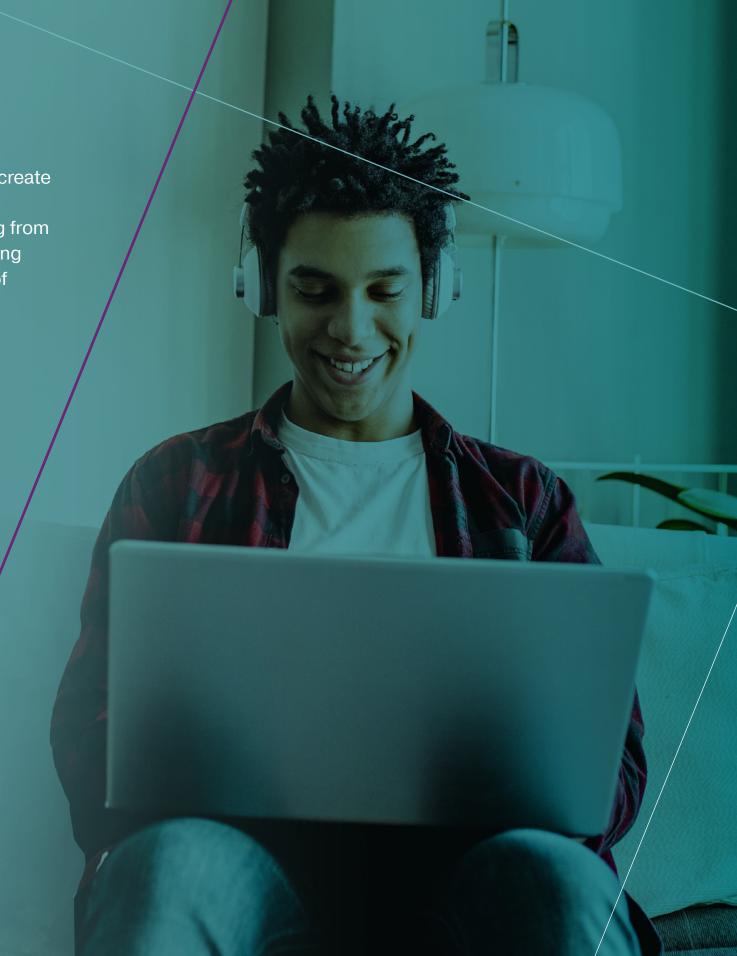


Overview

In a remote environment, it can be challenging (but not impossible!) to recreate the camaraderie of in-classroom learning. If you're looking to deepen the engagement and get back the authenticity and robustness you're missing from your in-person classes, try these **five proven strategies** for connecting with students, enhancing class collaboration, and increasing the quality of class discussion and coursework.

- Building bridges
 ENCOURAGE A COLLABORATIVE CLASSROOM VIBE
- 2 Authentic connections
 INSPIRE YOUR STUDENTS TO OPEN UP
- A little more conversation
 RAISE THE BAR FOR YOUR CLASS DISCUSSIONS
- Making it matter
 GIVE STUDENTS A VOICE AND
 HOLD THEM TO HIGHER STANDARDS
- Leveling up

 BETTER THINKING, BETTER WORK



Building bridges
Encourage a collaborative classroom vibe

I WANT TO...

Help build camaraderie among my students



THE PROBLEM IS...

My students don't feel connected to each other and collaboration is limited



- Break your class into smaller groups for more thoughtful, intimate discussions
- Assign pair and group projects and breakouts to encourage teamwork and accountability



Authentic connections Inspire your students to open up

I WANT TO...

Feel more connected to my online students



THE PROBLEM IS...

We don't interact enough, and their in-class contributions are minimal



- Use voice and video often by recording your lectures and module intros, using VoiceThread and Flipgrid for assignments, and mixing things up with YouTube and TED Talk videos
- Share your contact information and encourage your students to reach out with questions—or even just check in and chat
- Encourage students to share personal experiences and photos during discussions, posts, and assignments—and share your own, too



A little more conversation Raise the bar for your class discussions

I WANT TO...

Improve the quality and quantity of student participation on our discussion boards



THE PROBLEM IS...

My students don't post enough—and when they do, their comments are lackluster and repetitive



- Ask open-ended questions to prevent yes/no answers and other limited responses
- Solicit multiple points of view through research assignments
- Encourage students to share their experiences for more personal, engaging responses
- Break your class into smaller groups for more thoughtful, intimate discussions
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4 Making it matter
Give students a voice and

Give students a voice and hold them to higher standards

I WANT TO...

See student work that applies and demonstrates topical knowledge



THE PROBLEM IS...

My students' submissions don't connect to the material



- Make assignments feel meaningful and relevant by asking students to connect course materials to the issues and organizations that matter to them
- Give students a choice in assignment development by allowing them to choose (or vote as a class) on topics and formats
- Duild your students' conversational skills by assigning interviews with guest speakers, class presentations, and student-led teaching projects



Leveling up Better thinking, better work

I WANT TO...

Improve the quality of my students' submissions



THE PROBLEM IS...

Completed work is unoriginal and shows a lack of critical thinking



- Assign pair and group projects and breakouts to encourage teamwork and accountability
- Give students a choice in assignment development by allowing them to choose (or vote as a class) on topics and formats
- Create assignments that build on each other and on class discussions to help students understand the relevance and purpose of each day's work





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