

Encouraging Communication Activity Scenarios

1. Kevin is a student in your online class. You are in the middle of week 3 and you have noticed that Kevin only posts enough to meet minimum standards. You also notice that the quality of Kevin's has been slipping. Each of his posts is short, lack substance, and has multiple grammar mistakes.

In your group, discuss and develop some strategies for communicating these issues with Kevin in a way that encourages him to post more frequently in a manner that meets higher quality standards. Prepare to share these strategies with everyone.

2. You are about to put your first class online and want your students to feel comfortable communicating with each other throughout the course. As a group, discuss strategies to use that help students get to know each other and communicate effectively, honestly, and professionally with one another. Prepare to share these strategies with everyone.
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3. In one of your online courses, you require students to respond to assigned discussion questions on a weekly basis. Students are also required to read each other's post and respond to one another. You log on to view your course's most recent activity to find that one of your students has posted an offensive response to another student's discussion article. You notice that this post has been "live" for almost 24 hours and almost every student in your class has read it.

In your group, discuss and develop strategies for responding to this student and the rest of the class in a manner that maintains professionalism and encourages students to communicate positively with each other throughout the remainder of your course. Prepare to share these strategies with everyone.

4. In one of your online courses, you require students to respond to assigned discussion questions on a weekly basis. Students are also required to read each other's post and respond to one another. You log on to view your course's most recent activity to find that after two days no one has responded to Iris' post. You do not want to "take over" the conversation, but you would like to "get the ball rolling."

In your group, discuss and develop strategies for how you might encourage students to respond to this post and start an ongoing dialogue.

5. In one of your online courses, you require students to respond to assigned discussion questions on a weekly basis. Students are also required to read each other's post and respond to one another. You log on to view your course's most recent activity to find that many of the responses have been off-topic and more social in nature.

In your group, discuss and develop strategies for how you might encourage students to respond in a manner that addresses the issues while recognizing the importance of social communication.

6. You are approached by a colleague who is teaching her first online course. She says that she has been reading over her lectures and other resources and feels that they lack emotion. She also tells you that in her face-to-face class she is known for always smiling, laughing, and displaying eccentric body language. She is concerned that her online students will not be able to share this enthusiasm and fears that because of it, they will not enjoy her class as much.

In your group, discuss and develop strategies for how you might respond to your colleague and help her develop strategies for sharing emotions and enthusiasm with her students.