Perspectives on Engaging Online Students

03

Jennifer Pencek Pennsylvania State University

Why question online student engagement?

- Student engagement pertains to the time and physical energy students expend on academic activities (Kuh, 2003)
- Effective online instruction: can be as effective as traditional instruction, online courses need active learning, and online courses need strong instructor presence (Dixson, 2010)

Jennifer Pencek





Rrogramming coordinator, Center for Women Students at Penn State; graduate student through Penn State World Campus

Online engagement varies by instructor; impacts overall feeling of courses

Questions to ponder



- **Are strategies the same for engaging students?**
- **What challenges arise?**

Teaching context matters





Jason Laine

Oirector of Penn State
University Park Italian
language program
and author of Italian
001 for Penn State
World Campus

on recreating key elements of face-to-face language classroom

Transitioning from a traditional class matters



Assistant professor of science education at Penn State; developing first online course

Course development has been a struggle

Challenge areas

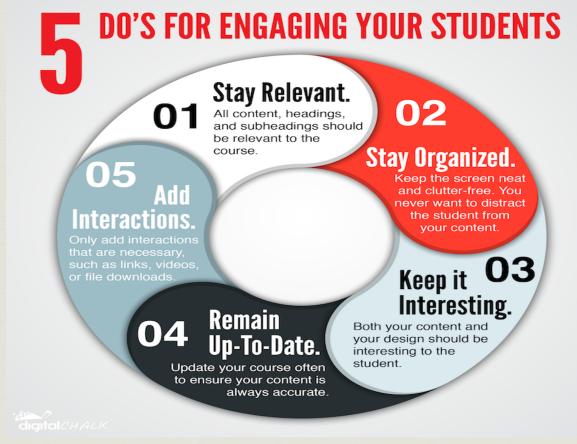
Social	Administrative	Motivational
Mandy Biggers Traditional courses mainly discussion- based; struggling to replicate interaction online	Front-loading prep of course before teaching it.	Needing to replicate traditional student involvement in online environment
Jason Laine Recreating larger discussion dynamic	Instructors dedicate majority of time to grading and e-mail interaction	Large number of students inactive; lag with e-mail as primary mode of communication

Emphasizes a caring class atmosphere



Fred Loomis

Associate professor of education and coordinator of higher education online program



Elearninginfographics.com

Conclusions

- Relate students to each other and topics
- Reprovide multiple ways of interacting
- Assess, assess, assess!

Topics I want to study

- ☑ Universal assessment strategies: Is a scale, survey, or other tool most effective in measuring effectiveness of engagement methods?

Questions?



