

Themed Conversation: Tips for Active Learning in Online Environments

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1. Design for Active Learning

- Active learning in online environments doesn't just happen, they are designed.
- Online learning can promote collaboration, broad participation and reflection – how can your activities maximize these advantages of online learning?
- Consider how active learning can be assessed online. How will formative assessment be incorporated into the design? How will summative assessment be communicated with students? Rubrics can be helpful

2. Design with the End in Mind

- Design leading with the learning outcomes you want to achieve, then select technology and tools that can help you achieve these goals.
- Use technologies in purposeful ways to support collaboration, reflection and participatory learning experiences.

3. Design Authentic Learning Experiences

- Consider signature pedagogies of your discipline to help design active learning.
- Example: case-studies or case-based approaches are often used in both Social Work and Education.

4. Devote Time to Learning the Technology

- Take time to become familiar with technologies in advance so that you can focus on teaching rather the technology for your class
- Draw on informal supports and mentors to learn about new technologies and access institutional supports (e.g., TI) for learning and becoming comfortable with online technologies

5. Integrate Technology at Your Own Pace

- You can integrate technology and online learning into your courses gradually
- Continually add to your teaching repertoire and don't feel you need to do it all at one time!