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Being There: How Instructors Make an Impact in Online Education

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Introduction

Title of Presentation: **Being There:
How Instructors Make an Impact in Online Education**

Instructors make an incredible impact in the classroom--to that, we can all agree. But what are some tips and suggestions for instructors to make a more "connected" classroom for their students? How can we, as instructors, best provide premium support for students? Communication, the learning environment, the tone of feedback, discussion participation, and providing students with strategies about study methods and time management will be covered. This webinar will provide tips and suggestions throughout, and we will conclude with a question-and-answer period.



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Agenda

What we will cover today in this presentation:

Being There: How Instructors Make an Impact in Online Education
Supporting students in the virtual environment is one of the hallmarks of a successful online instructor.

In this webinar, the following aspects will be covered:

- * Introduction and the "Eight Roles of an Effective Online Teacher."
- * Set a warm and welcoming environment.
- * Provide robust feedback.
- * Challenge students to use tools for organization and time management to be successful.

We will conclude with a question-and-answer period.



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Being the Role Model Teacher



- Be communicative: Send a warm and welcoming email to each student enrolled in the class in addition to a posted welcome announcement and guidance posts in the first discussion board!
- Be structured: Follow protocols and policies and be sure your classroom space is perfect (no broken links, all readings are available, rubrics are present, etc.)!
- Be accountable: Hold yourself to the standards your organization (campus/school) requires!
- Be authentic: Be yourself! Students know when their instructors are being "real" with them. Therefore, be authentic! It is crucial when working with students and forging an alliance between *learners* (students) and *mentors* (instructors).



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Be Communicative and Structured

- Communicate, communicate, communicate. It is truly one key to being a successful online instructor.
- Do what you say you will do.
- Be on time for regular meetings and scheduled phone calls with students.
- Exhibit and model the kind of student you want your students to be. Use a tone of respect, warmth, and collegiality.
- Provide clear expectations for your students and be consistent.



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Be Accountable and Authentic

- Hold yourself to high standards.
- Follow your organization's policies, procedures, and protocols. When you do this, you show your students that such things do matter.
- Be who you are. Students are perceptive and can usually recognize insincere platitudes.



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What Should Feedback Include?

Use the sandwich method: Praise, Criticism, Praise.

- Start with something positive.
- Provide the reason for the grade.
- Provide the reason as a recommendation/reminder.
- Provide a tip to reach the goal, or perhaps give an example.
- Provide your expectation.
- Remind the student that you are available for assistance/clarification.
- End on a motivational thought.
- Use a rubric.



Put it all together, and what do you get???

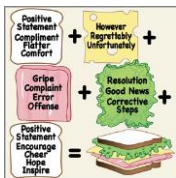


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Example of Feedback

What does feedback look like?

Thank you for your participation this week. I know the prompt required that you provide some pertinent details about our week's content. While you had some really good ideas in your posts, the explanation of those ideas needs to provide more depth. For instance, you write "I think the author wants her audience to understand the emotions of the protagonist." To complete that idea, a good practice would be to give an example of what makes you think that. What is a specific excerpt from the text that makes you think that? I encourage you to refresh your memory about the requirements by looking in the directions for each week as well as in the attached completed rubric. In each discussion board, you are required to post once initially and then as a response to at least two of your peers. You did that requirement! However, the posts must also show facts, reasons, details, and examples. Remember: I am always here to help; contact me if you need clarification. I look forward to seeing your future posts! Keep writing! :)



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Challenge Students to Use Tools for Organization and Time Management to be Successful



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Importance of Organization and Time Management

Tips/Techniques for Students



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Finally...

What are some tools to assist, and how can you make your mark in the classroom?

The next two slides:

* Provide a list of some of the most common tools that we, as online instructors, can use in our classrooms to create a vibrant learning community.

* Address your digital persona. What kind of digital persona do you want to create? What areas, specifically, can you focus upon to make your presence positive, dynamic, and engaging?



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Tools to Assist

- Office and/or Google Calendar
- Meeting Platforms (AnyMeeting, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, GoToMeeting, etc.)
- Interaction
 - Nearpod
 - Kahoot (free version!)
- Shared Folders & Sites for Collaboration
 - Planner
 - One Drive
 - Teams
- Video Presentations
 - Embed into PowerPoint
 - Prezi
 - Microsoft Stream
 - Record in Video Software



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Your Digital Persona

Let your personality shine through!
 Create your digital footprint through:

- Announcements
- Feedback
- Discussions
- Emails
- Chats
- Scheduled phone calls
- Online meetings (including Zoom, Skype, AnyMeeting, etc.)



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Question-and-Answer Period



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Thank you.

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