

# 5 WAYS TO KEEP HUMAN CONNECTIONS WHEN MOVING LEARNING ONLINE



## **SIMPLIFY AND BE FLEXIBLE.**

It's not realistic to think that instructors can change their face-to-face course into a fully robust online format in a matter of days, or to expect students will have unlimited time for learning. They'll need to simplify the move to online by requiring only what's absolutely necessary. Where possible, it will be important to build in flexible deadlines.

## **DON'T ASSUME STUDENTS HAVE RELIABLE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS OR UNDERSTAND PARTICULAR DIGITAL PLATFORMS.**

Not everyone has consistent, reliable access to the internet and a computer. Ask students which technology they have and provide low-tech and low-bandwidth options for completing the class with the most basic tools whenever possible.



## **LOOK FOR WAYS TO BUILD AN ONLINE COMMUNITY.**

This might sound like more effort for those already busy with the work of moving online but making space for students to connect and collaborate creates valuable peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Just knowing that options are available for students to connect and help one another can allow educators to set boundaries.

## **DON'T BE AFRAID TO CROWDSOURCE IDEAS.**

Use social platforms to engage with and learn from colleagues and professional communities. Instructors can also keep in mind adopting or adapting open educational resources and look for ways to share expertise through open venues like Creative Commons and through social media groups and hashtags.

## **KEEP THE BIG PICTURE IN MIND.**

Instructors sharing light-hearted, positive stories will help ease the tension after making a quick switch to online. Everyone's overall screen time is bound to increase, so it's important to balance that with extra breaks away from technology. Let's remember that even when we're online, we are all in this together.

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