5 TIPS

FOR IMPROVING YOUR ONLINE COURSE DESIGN

VARY THE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Assignments should move students from the lower levels of Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning Domains (remember and understand) to the higher levels (apply and analyze) to the highest levels (evaluate and create).

ASK STUDENTS FOR FEEDBACK

Providing opportunities for students to offer feedback gives them a chance to reflect on their learning experience, and it conveys to the students that their opinions matter and that you are willing to improve the course.

PROVIDE PERSONAL FEEDBACK

The latest recommendation is to embed audio comments in assignments. This allows students to hear the tone and inflection of your voice. It can also convey your personality and that you care about the student's progress.

PLAN A CLOSING OR WRAP-UP ACTIVITY

When the course is coming to an end, give students a chance to reflect on what they've learned. This will often be the course's culminating project, which provides the opportunity for students to apply the concepts they've learned throughout the course.

HAVE SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSIONS

Discussions need to be designed to give students a way to enter the conversation. Keep the following questions in mind.
- What is the purpose of this discussion?
- Does the prompt foster dialogue?
- Does the prompt make students think?

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