Inclusivity in the Zoom Classroom: A Practical Guide

Keeping all Students in Mind: Tidbits for Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment in Zoom

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Agenda

• Intro: Why and when should I be using Zoom for class sessions?

• What challenges do students face when engaging in synchronous Zoom meetings?
  • What challenges are specific to, or particularly exacerbated by, the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?

• How do I use “structure” to my advantage when teaching remotely via Zoom?
Why or when to use Zoom?

- Flipped Learning:
  - Push “delivery” into interactive asynchronous modes
  - Keep synchronous meetings for interaction/problem solving/discussion
- Consider posting recordings (without penalty for later viewing)
- Keep in mind:
  - Interaction takes longer in Zoom
  - It’s more difficult to “read the room”
  - Zoom fatigue
  - Social interaction can humanize online learning
Students’ Challenges

- Ask! Send survey about internet and technology access (before class begins, after ‘dust has settled’, before major events like exams/projects)
- Record and post synchronous meetings with a way for students to collaborate when participating asynchronously
- Diversify ways to “participate” that are not limited to video/audio
- Keep in mind:
  - Visual challenges in Zoom
  - Time zones & learning environments
  - Psychological stress & effects of distance
  - Sensitivity and triggers
  - Benefit of routines (e.g., opening/closing)
Structuring Zoom Sessions

• Participation in online synchronous class has a different “feel”. Translate important features from your course to the online space through intentional structure. Consider:
  • Explicitly state goals and purpose
  • Use synchronous time with intentionality
  • Translate formal/informal communications to/from students
  • Prepare students for class
  • Uncover the “hidden curriculum”; practice and model behavior conventions
  • Develop routine for “wait time”
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Join us for the next session in this series!

Zooming In: Responding to Conflict and Emotionally Charged Moments in the Zoom Classroom

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