

Humanizing Virtual Learning

Module 3 Intro Video Transcript

How can you help your learners feel connected and engaged once your course is developed and running in term?

What strategies work to further enhance authentic connections between you and your learners, and between your learners and one another?

If you are using them, how can you make the most of your online live sessions?

In this module, we will explore some of the key humanizing strategies that you can use during the term, while teaching your course to help create the **human connections** you and your learners need, in spite of the distance between you.

Here is what instructors are saying about these facilitation strategies that help to humanize learning:

Regular communication is essential to humanizing the course and keeping students engaged. Assigning collaborative exercises and creating incentives for students to participate in activities are very helpful to create a sense of community, especially in fully online courses.

~Tugce Elliatli-Kose, Dept of Sociology Trent University

I ask questions that tie into the material but can be answered from a personal perspective. For instance, in a lecture on G.H. Mead's theory in which he believes animals do not have a sense of self, I ask students whether they know a smart animal who they believe is self-aware. Boy do they! It is a fun exchange of pet stories that helps create community and challenges Mead's theory.

~Kristy Buccieri, Trent University

We'll also discuss some of the ways to help use synchronous, or real-time sessions to help further humanize your online course.

Instructors' report:

[Adding] optional synchronous online class sessions have allowed for additional engagement opportunities for those that learn best by interacting with other classmates and their professor to share perspectives and ask questions.

~David Ha, Dept of Accounting, University of Waterloo

Join us in this module and identify some personal strategies to foster more connection through your online teaching, whether you have designed your own course or are teaching an existing one.