Cultivating Connection in Online Courses: Perspectives from Large-enrollment Classrooms

Goal-setting

We worked through some of these steps in our CEITL presentation, but we wanted to provide a goal-setting framework for use after the session. We also provide, on the second page, an example of this process using our responses to the following questions. We look forward to having you join us for the second session of our 2-part CEITL presentation on December 1.

– Sara Withers (ANTH) & Jennifer Purrenhage (NREN)

What is one of your favorite ways to cultivate connections and build community in your course?

What major constraints are standing in the way of your plans to cultivate connections and build community in your classes this semester?

What goals do you want to achieve with your class? What parts of your class do you still want to hold on to despite the challenges brought by COVID-19?

Brainstorm 1-2 ways to adapt your favorite parts of your class to the situations we now find ourselves in.

What are your learning objectives or community-building objectives, and how will you know whether you’ve met them?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What goals do you want to achieve with your class? What problem are you trying to solve?</th>
<th>What are your learning or community-building objectives?</th>
<th>First steps: what are the adaptations you can make to meet these objectives?</th>
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**Goal-setting**

*Example by Sara Withers & Jennifer Purrenhage*

What major constraints are standing in the way of your plans to cultivate connections and build community in your classes this semester?

- Online classrooms, no in-person meetings
- No large public gatherings

What goals do you want to achieve with your class? What parts of your class do you still want to hold on to despite the challenges brought by COVID-19? What is one of your favorite ways to cultivate connections and to build community in your course?

- In-person discussions and times to exchange ideas, opinions, and perspectives
- Collaborative, public-facing student projects

Brainstorm 1-2 ways to adapt your favorite parts of your class to the situations we now find ourselves in.

- *Anthroperspectives*—a collaborative project where anthropology (ANTH 440H) and conservation (NR 435H) students work through a series of parallel photo-based assignments throughout the semester, and then come together in an end-of-semester virtual gallery to exchange ideas and share perspectives.

What are your learning objectives or community-building objectives, and how will you know whether you’ve met them?

- Peer-to-peer learning
- Cross-disciplinary connection
- Collaboration with colleagues

We will revisit our objectives through a qualitative assessment of student reflections and class discussions following the virtual gallery.

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<td>Loss of public-facing collaborative projects due to fully online instruction (COVID-19)</td>
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