Engagement: Monitoring

Dr. Michelle Greene
Director, Collaborative Learning Center
How do we imbue an assignment with meaning?
RESEARCH: What made a writing assignment meaningful?

- Over 700 undergraduate students at 3 institutions
- Multiple opportunities for engagement throughout the assignment

(Eodice, Geller and Learner, 2016)
What is Engagement in an Online Course?
“Multiple low-stakes assignments support learning more effectively than a single summative one” (Darby and Lang, 2019, p 29)
1. Break up large tasks
2. Strategic release of content
3. Monitor engagement
What large assignments do you give?
Papers, Projects, Exams?
Break Up Large Assignments

- Setup

• Smaller parts don’t have to be graded

• Steps to assist with success – must have meaning

• Feedback
  • timely and helpful
  • consider your deadlines
Break Up Large Assignments - Effect on Student

- Helps with pacing
- Builds confidence and self-efficacy
“Conditional release of material improved student performance in online course but not in face-to-face courses.”

(Fisher et al, 2015)
Strategic Release of Content

Canvas

• You can make access to future modules dependent upon completion of any module, quiz, video, page view
• You can make access to future modules dependent on score on quiz or assignment
• Plan no/low stakes graded assessment to demonstrate mastery before moving on
Low/No Stakes Assessment Ideas

- Quiz
- Summary of key topics/ideas
- Quiz on video/lecture
- Discussion where they relate key topics in previous module to key topics in current module
Warning!!!

Be careful about making too many hoops for your students to get through…
1. Break up large tasks
2. Strategic release of content
3. Monitor engagement
Monitor Engagement

- Know when and how your students should be interacting
- Intervene when student is not
- Plan your interventions on your calendar
Monitor Engagement

- Getting the same question over and over again?
  - Scale responses to questions to number of times you get the question
  - Consider video explanation, email, announcement, copied response
Monitor Engagement

• If you are not evident in the class, the students are less likely to stay engaged.

• Plan your visibility – set aside time specifically

• Students need to know you are watching!
Ideas

• In active (or off-topic) discussion - pin a post (so it stays at the top) and summarize key points raised in the discussion or a key point to be discussed

• Send an announcement night before a lecture or before release of a module describing key points or highlights to look for
Use of Video for Engagement

- Great way to break up text heavy course
- Inserts you into course – 1 effort ahead of time = multiple engagements during the semester
Use of Video for Engagement

- Setup

- Screencast-O-Matic or Panopto
- Keep them short – shoot for no more than 6 min
- Casual narration better than scripted (but you should think about what you are going to say)
- Captioning is good…SOM videos easy to caption – ETL has students to help
Use of Video for Engagement

-Tips

• Don’t refer to other videos or lessons in a video
• Panopto allows you to add quiz questions in it
• You can use materials existing online
  • Does this add to student learning?
  • Does it achieve a learning outcome?
• Start small – you do need to include a few videos with you in it – but add to your library over time
• Copyright issues – check with library