



5 ESSENTIAL PRACTICES FOR REMOTE OR ONLINE INSTRUCTION DURING UNCERTAINTY

- 1) Typical online courses are prepared far in advance. You are not doing that. Your job is to use technology and resources available to you, including tech support and peers, to deliver the best course experience you can.
- 2) Across your educator team, be as consistent as possible. For example, work to get people using the same tech platforms so students are not learning more than one new way of accessing classwork.
- 3) In your classroom, be as flexible as possible. Set due dates and clear expectations, but don't count attendance. Understand that students will necessarily have many new barriers, and due dates may need to be fluid. If you give a live lesson, record and share it. Flexibility includes accessibility. For example, link to full-text materials for people who use screen readers rather than just sending out a pdf that they won't be able to access.
- 4) Whatever tech you decide on, practice! And consider investing in an inexpensive microphone if you can. Understand that live interactions, such as via Zoom, have significantly more energy and engagement than recorded sessions. It's okay not to be perfect. Model the kind of creativity and improvisation you'll need from your students.
- 5) Many students will find missing the little daily interactions the most difficult part. Build in time to ask about their day. Provide one-on-one and small group opportunities to connect. Some students will only be accessing material on their phones or a crowded environment. Don't overwhelm them with too much work. Ask yourself what sense of accomplishment and normalcy can you provide, given the circumstances, and aim for those goals.

Tips summarized from a discussion with educational experts Alyssa Kariofyllis, CC Chapman, and Tim Best for EngagingStudents.com. [Watch the video](#) on YouTube.