

# MID-SEMESTER REMOTE TEACHING TWEAKS

# LESS IS MORE

Take a moment (and a few deep breaths) to revisit your remote teaching strategies.



## Emphasize Community

Instead of diving right into a synchronous session, take 5 minutes for a check-in. Two simple options:

- 1 Create a slide with four different numbered pictures (animals, foods, places you wish you could visit) and ask students to type the number matching their mood in the chat.
- 2 Guide students to take three deep breaths in through their nose and out through their mouth at the start, middle, and/or end of a session. Don't forget to participate yourself!



## Set weekly teaching and learning priorities

In your weekly course announcements, make it clear what's "need to do" and what's "nice to do" so that students can prioritize accordingly.

Take the same approach with your weekly teaching preparations - what are the one or two things that will have the biggest impact on student learning? What can you let go?

## LET GO OF Perfection

You messed up in live teaching sessions pre-pandemic, and you're still a human being now. That narrated slide presentation or podcast doesn't have to be perfect - if you botch a particular example, just apologize and keep going rather than re-recording the entire video. Put a note next to the upload that busy students should skip sections if you don't have time to edit them out.



## It's about skills, not content.

Content is critical, but if you and your students are burnt out already, learning is not going to happen regardless of what you provide. Think about the skills that students are learning in your course that will allow them to engage with that content in the future. See if you can find places to cut back on content to allow students more time for application, practice, and integration.



## Mix up your active learning strategies

Stuck in a rut with your synchronous session engagement? If students aren't participating in discussions, try calling on individuals by name (warning the class that this will be happening first), requesting answers to a specific question in the chat or with the 'raise hand' option, or using an instant polling software in Zoom or MentiMeter to gather student responses to probing questions. An extensive list of [active learning options is available here](#) - but just pick one or two!

## Reduce, revamp, or eliminate discussion board posts, assignments, and quizzes.

These short learning opportunities often take a lot of time and effort to create and assess for instructors, and their high frequency in weekly schedules often mean that students taking multiple courses feel overwhelmed by deadlines

- Give the option to drop the lowest grade, if not already offered
- Change weekly assignments to bi-weekly
- Assess short posts on a rotation instead of each and every time

