

Countering Isolation by Bridging Digital Islands in Online Classes

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Objective

- Explain three relatively simple and engaging approaches that can be successfully applied to any online course in order to bridge digital islands.



Approach to Online Teaching

- “It’s not a lecture classroom online, it’s an active learning classroom online.” by Conrad at University of California at Berkeley



Facilitator

- Student Learning Outcomes
 - Guided Reading Assignment
 - SLO Modeling Video
 - Adaptive Learning Questions
 - Videos and/or animations
 - TED Talks
 - Laboratory Activities
 - Forum assignment.



Digital Islands

- Isolation
- Loneliness
- Lack of Support
- Lack of Motivation



Teaching Strategies to Bridge Digital Islands

- Video Podcast
 - Instructor Presence
- Discussion Board Format
 - Instructor Presence
 - Community
- Life Skills Video Series
 - Community



Video Podcasts

- Weekly
- Class Tips
- Class Policies
- [How To \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/qXLClIw_5Cw) https://youtu.be/qXLClIw_5Cw
- [Academic Integrity \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/vxoSD3dABFA) https://youtu.be/vxoSD3dABFA
- [Student Success Resources \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/mTkiGhZj8HY) https://youtu.be/mTkiGhZj8HY
- [Respect \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/hXoZvHCrBPY) https://youtu.be/hXoZvHCrBPY
- [How to Learn the Material \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/5d52gyvoCvg) https://youtu.be/5d52gyvoCvg
- [Smarterproctoring \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/pGLGOth8wOs) https://youtu.be/pGLGOth8wOs
- [Discussion Board \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/fHtTnH2Co3k) https://youtu.be/fHtTnH2Co3k
- [Test Performance \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/XSdUbbq81Pk) https://youtu.be/XSdUbbq81Pk
- [Last Day to Withdraw \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/KsNxycXrhRE) https://youtu.be/KsNxycXrhRE
- [Lab Practical \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/FuWkwM5LYB8) https://youtu.be/FuWkwM5LYB8
- [Spring Break \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/-1v627a_Ptc) https://youtu.be/-1v627a_Ptc



Video Podcasts – Student Feedback

- *“Dr. Frear is a great teacher. She created weekly podcasts for her online classes to inform us on what was to come and participated in the discussion boards each week.”*
- *“The instructor did an awesome job and help each of us out to stay on top of our work.”*
- *“Dr. Frear is very clear about what she expects in the class, even if it is an online setting. Amazing communicator.”*



Discussion Board Format

- Icebreaker Assignment
 - Written
 - Videos
 - Model
- Weekly
 - Ask a question
 - Answer a question
 - Share relevant information
- Instructor Presence



Discussion Board - Instructions

Discussion Board Assignment

Instructions

The purpose of this assignment is to foster a positive learning environment for this course through active participation. There will be a new Forum set up each week, and each forum will contain a thread for each assignment due that Wednesday. You may discuss lecture concepts, study guides, lab exercises, or general information related to the assignments. You may reply to the existing thread(s) or start your own. The only things you are NOT allowed to discuss are the lecture or lab quizzes. I will check in and answer questions as needed, but I encourage students to answer as many questions for each other as possible.

Because it is important to post early to enhance your learning, you should participate in each Forum at least four times by 6:00 pm every Tuesday. You will not be penalized for completing your participation early, but remember to check back and follow the discussions because they may help you with your own assignments. Posts made after 6:00 pm on Tuesday will not be considered when awarding participation points.

Posts should be relevant to the assignments due that week. The term relevant here means discussions involving the lecture concepts, study guides, lab exercises, or specific textbook readings. Although welcome and appreciated, posts that only thank other students for their answers or address other topics will not be considered when grading forum posts. Posts should have substance that is helpful to other students.



Discussion Board - Rubric

Points	Criteria
0-4	Student completed at least four relevant posts by 6:00 pm Tuesday. Students should be posting throughout the week in order to receive full credit. If you wait until Tuesday to post all four posts you will have points deducted. Students receive the most points for starting early.
0-2	Student asked at least one relevant question related to the week's assignments and answered correctly at least one other student's question related to the assignments.
0-1	Posts show that student first checked the textbook, lab manual, or websites provided by the instructor, and used these resources to help other students answer questions. If student used other websites or resources, he/she concisely synthesized information from these sources in a few sentences to provide helpful information directly related to the question being asked, rather than cut and paste a paragraph of information from a website. In addition, student evaluated resources for reliability prior to posting them, did not use a source like Wikipedia, and cited the source of the information in the post.
0-1	Posts show that the student read previous discussions and posts before posting a new question or answer. Questions/answers were original and relevant to previous posts - not the same questions/answers from other students.
0-1	Student used good spelling, grammar and punctuation in all posts, including proper capitalization.
0-1	Student demonstrated a sincere desire to learn, master, and help of others with the material through engaged discussion, rather than posting the minimum needed for credit.

Netiquette

Respectful interactions are required to establish an online community through the discussion boards. Any posts that are deemed inappropriate by the instructor will be edited. The inappropriate comment(s) within the post will be removed and replaced with the words 'netiquette violation'. Students who receive a netiquette violation will have 5 points deducted from that week's discussion board grade. Students who receive three or more netiquette violations will not be allowed to post to the discussion boards and will receive grades of zero on the discussion board assignments.



Discussion Boards - Student Feedback

- *"Dr. Frear has by far the best utilization of the blackboard discussion forum I have ever experienced in an online course."*
- *"I really liked the way that Dr. Frear conducted our discussion board. It feels like a virtual classroom, the way I feel all online classes should run. I felt very involved and I feel like I learned better this way."*
- *"I loved this class, it was tough but the spirit of teamwork that this professor created, made it an awesome learning experience."*
- *"I like the opportunity that was I given to interact with other students, it made me feel like I was not taking the course alone."*



Life Skills Video Series

- What life skills do you wish your students possessed?
- How might these skills benefit your students?



Life Skills

- [On Course Workshop \(opens in a new window\)](http://oncourseworkshop.com/)
<http://oncourseworkshop.com/>
- Life Skills
 - Self-Motivation
 - Self-Management
 - Interdependence
 - Emotional Intelligence
 - Self-Awareness
 - Personal Responsibility
 - Life-Long Learner
 - Believe in Yourself



Life Skills – Personal Responsibility

- [Personal Responsibility \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/Kq65aAYCH0w)
https://youtu.be/Kq65aAYCH0w
- Please click on the following link and view the video called Broken Escalator. After viewing the video a few minutes and reflect on situations in academia in which you have or have seen others not take responsibility for their actions. What could you or others have done to take responsibility in those situations. Please share what you feel comfortable sharing and/or comment on the thread in the forum called Broken Escalator.



Life Skills - Interdependence

- [Interdependence \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/g1QupQH1HY)
https://youtu.be/g1QupQH1HY
- Click on the link below to watch a video that illustrates interdependence being applied to achieve a goal. The video is of Eric Weihenmayer, a blind man, crossing a crevasse on his way to summit Mount Everest. The video illustrates an obvious example of how other people are needed to obtain the goal of crossing a crevasse. Interdependence is also necessary for students to achieve success in their college courses and academic goals. After watching the video post a comment on the Interdependence Thread in the Evolution Forum stating ways in which you have achieved an academic goal utilizing interdependence and/or give an example of how a goal could have been achieved if you had applied the concept of interdependence.



Life Skills – Self-Awareness

- [Self-Awareness \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/LpAlddIoV34)
<https://youtu.be/LpAlddIoV34>
- Click on the link below to watch the video of a student sharing her story of overcoming obstacles to be successful in college. After you watch the video reflect and determine 'who lives in your head' and how can you evict them? If you feel comfortable you can share that information on the forum thread entitled, Self-Awareness.



Life Skills – Life-Long Learner

- [Life-Long Learner \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/laLvDXvIWvs)
<https://youtu.be/laLvDXvIWvs>
- Click on the link below to watch a video script of the Michael Jordan Failure Commercial. Reflect upon the video then share your answers to the following questions to the forum thread Life-Long Learning.
 - How did the concept of being a life-long learner ensure Michael Jordan's success?
 - What areas of your life have you had to practice, learn or relearn skills in order to be successful?



Life Skills – Self-Motivation

- [Self- Motivation \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/iynzHWwJXaA)
https://youtu.be/iynzHWwJXaA
- Click on the link below to view the video called The Speed Camera Lottery - The Fun Theory. Once you have viewed the video you are to reflect on ways in which you can apply the Fun Theory to your studies, homework assignments, and/or preparation for taking quizzes and tests. Share your ideas with the rest of the class by posting them in the Module 4 Energy Forum.



Life Skills – Self-Management

- [Self-Management \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/AdKUJxn-R8)
https://youtu.be/AdKUJxn-R8
- Click on the following link to watch the TEDx Talk on Self-Management focusing on how to make long term changes through tiny habits. Once you have watched the video pick a habit you want to create and post the following to the Module 6 Forum in the Self-Management thread.
 - What tiny habit do you want to create?
 - What is your trigger?
 - How will you celebrate?
 - Fill in the following equation - After I _____, I will _____.



Life Skills – Believe In Yourself

- [Believe in Yourself \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/rrHoDJinMQI)
https://youtu.be/rrHoDJinMQI
- Click on the link below to watch the video created by the Dove company. After watching the video reflect upon it and the previous videos you have watched in this series of videos. Submit a post to the forum in the Believe In Yourself thread discussing how the video series has impacted you and your outlook on college, your current goals and/or your future goals.



Life Skills – Emotional Intelligence

- [Emotional Intelligence \(opens in a new window\)](https://youtu.be/l6402QJp52M)
https://youtu.be/l6402QJp52M
- Click the link below and view the "The Most Important Thing You Can Do For Your Stress". After viewing the video post your answers to the Emotional Intelligence thread on the forum.
 - What are examples of the negative impact stress has had on you?
 - What are examples of the positive impact stress has had on you?
 - What makes you resistant to stress?
 - What is the single most effective treatment for managing stress?
 - What Cognitive Behavioral Therapy can you use to improve your stress management skills?
 - What Mindfulness Techniques can you use to improve your stress management skills?



Life Skills – Student Feedback

- *"I love that we've gotten to watch videos that don't outright have to do with school or Biology, but are there to help us better ourselves. I feel like that is really important in life and I appreciate it when teachers can recognize that and find it important for their students to learn those lessons and become more educated in that sense."*
- *"The video series we have gone through this semester has been a huge eye-opener. From learning more about ourselves to seeing ourselves more clearly."*
- *"I have honestly really loved watching and responding to these videos over the course of the semester. It gives us students a way of talking about life skills together, and I think it's useful learning about all kinds of different perspectives on a whole bunch of different ideas. I've learned so much from people that I haven't even met, and I think that's pretty cool. No other teacher has done something like this, so thank you!"*
- *"I have loved responding to this video series over the course of this class. I find videos like this to be very inspiring and comforting. It's sometimes good to take a break from all the material we have to learn to focus on a few life lessons that we may remember for a long time after the course is over. As a student, it makes me feel like my experiences and thoughts are valued."*



Questions?

