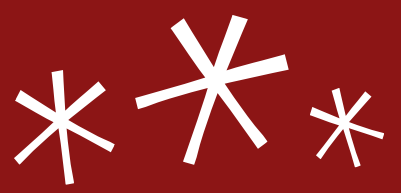# TEN PROMISING PRACTICES FOR EFFECTIVE ONLINE TEACHING

Are you trying to distill some top practices for teaching online? Here's our Top 10 list of some principles and practices to bear in mind if you're teaching in a fully or partially online environment.

1 **Create opportunities for students to connect with you, as the instructor, and with each other, as a peer learning community, throughout the quarter.** Social presence is a critical part of any learning experience, and that's especially true in online contexts.
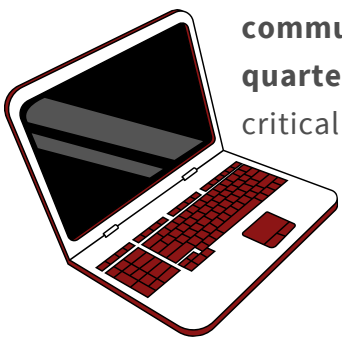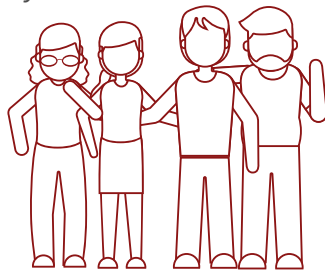
2 **Make all course material accessible online.** Equitable courses give all students access to the material regardless of where and how they're joining your class. All of your lecture notes, lecture slidedecks, readings, assignments, and assignment submission places should be accessible to all students in the course learning management system (Canvas) so that they can participate in the course.

3 **Pick one digital "home space" (that can be accessed asynchronously and with a low bandwidth Internet connection) and link any additional resources from the home space.** Try to keep the bulk of your course materials in one "home space" so students know where to go.

4 **Ask students about their online learning experience throughout the course, not just at the beginning.** Our students are diverse, and they appreciate knowing that their instructors care about them and their needs. Build in times at the beginning and middle of the course to check in on students and ask how they're experiencing the class.

5 **Establish class norms and expectations for online learning.** Connect with your students and consider what they'd like to see from your class's learning environment and what they'd like to see established as norms for communicating with you and with each other.
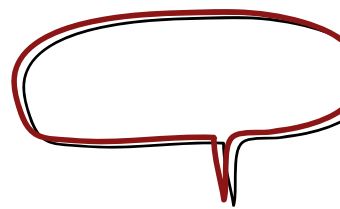
6 **Vary the class activity types (i.e. synchronous and asynchronous, large group and small group, etc.) you use to maintain interest and reach different learners.** The more variety you can offer to your students, from varying how students experience learning activities and when, the more you can help keep students engaged.

7 **Connect students to multimedia resources.** Since your students may be accessing your class either partially or fully online, you may want to consider some ways to connect your students to a variety of resources so that they can engage with the content, not just at the level of text, but also with audio, video, or a mix of media resources.

8 **Establish clear expectations for how and when you will be available for support.** Teaching online may feel like you are "on" 100% of the time, but that does not need to be the case. Plan ahead for when you'll be available for "live support" for students and when you'll be responding to e-mail or messages that you might not respond to students in "real time."

9 **Streamline your curriculum to make room for getting used to the learning environment.** You may want to consider streamlining the content you would normally teach in an in-person term so that you do not feel overwhelmed by content coverage alone

10 **Ask for support! You are not alone.** This is a new experience for everyone, so do not hesitate to reach out and find the university resources you need to succeed.

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https://teachingcommons.stanford.edu