

2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

TEACHING, LEARNING  
& DESIGN CONFERENCE



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## **Creating a Sense of Instructor Presence in Online Courses**

A common complaint among online learners is the feeling that they are doing things alone without a sense that the instructor is engaged in the course.

This session is designed to provide the online instructor with tactics and techniques to create a sense of instructor presence in the course that reflect to the student that the instructor is truly engaged in the learning process along with the student.

# ACTUALLY BE ENGAGED IN YOUR ONLINE COURSE



## Tip

Check into your online course at least as much as you recommend students should. Regularly checking in keeps your head in your course.

# GRADE IN A TIMELY MANNER!



Tip

**DUH!**

# RESPOND PROMPTLY!



## Tip

Respond to emails! Promptly!  
The most frequent complaints I hear about about online instructors in general is their failing to respond to messages in a timely manner and sometimes even at all.

# Do NOT reinvent the wheel.

## Tip

Take advantage of what your institution already provides, such as attendance software, early grade alert system, etc.



# POST A RELEVANT BIO.

FYI: MY DAD'S FAMILY IS FROM A SMALL VILLAGE IN THE MOUNTAINS ABOVE PALERMO, SICILY, CALLED CONTESSA ENTELLINA



## Tip

Keep an updated bio posted. Share something about your education, hobbies and interests, personal world within the boundaries of decorum.

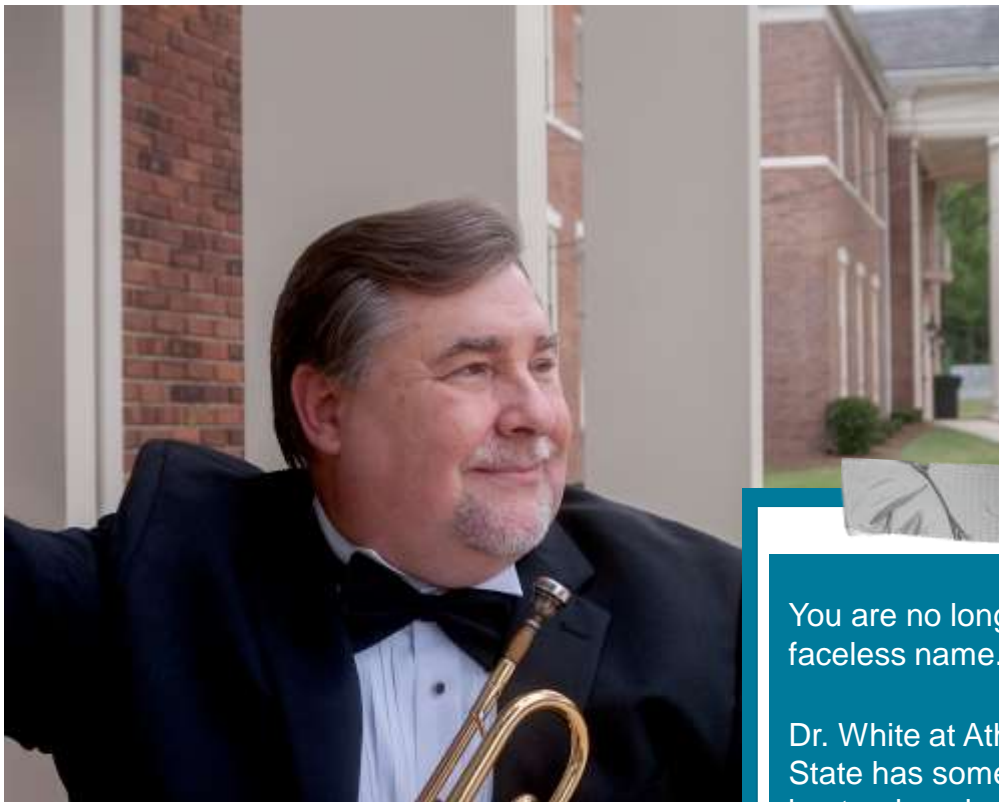


Photo Credit: Nicholas Rizzo

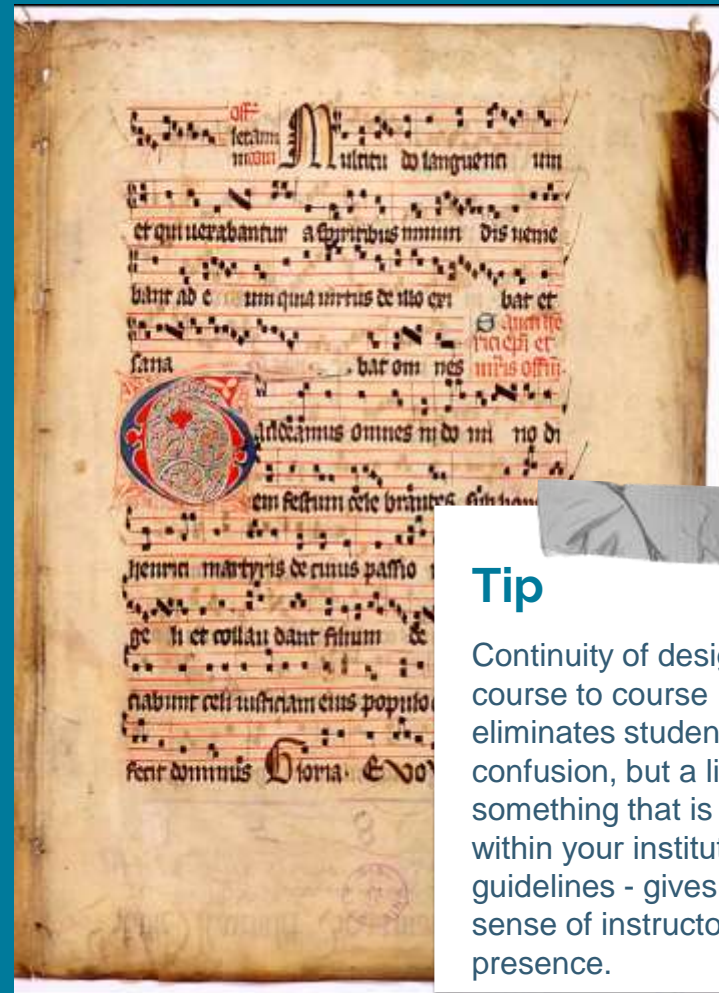
Post a current  
picture/video.

You are no longer a  
faceless name.

Dr. White at Athens  
State has some of the  
best, relaxed welcome  
videos. They are  
conversational and  
engaging.



# CUSTOMIZE YOUR COURSE HOMEPAGE - WITHIN REASON - IN YOUR LMS.



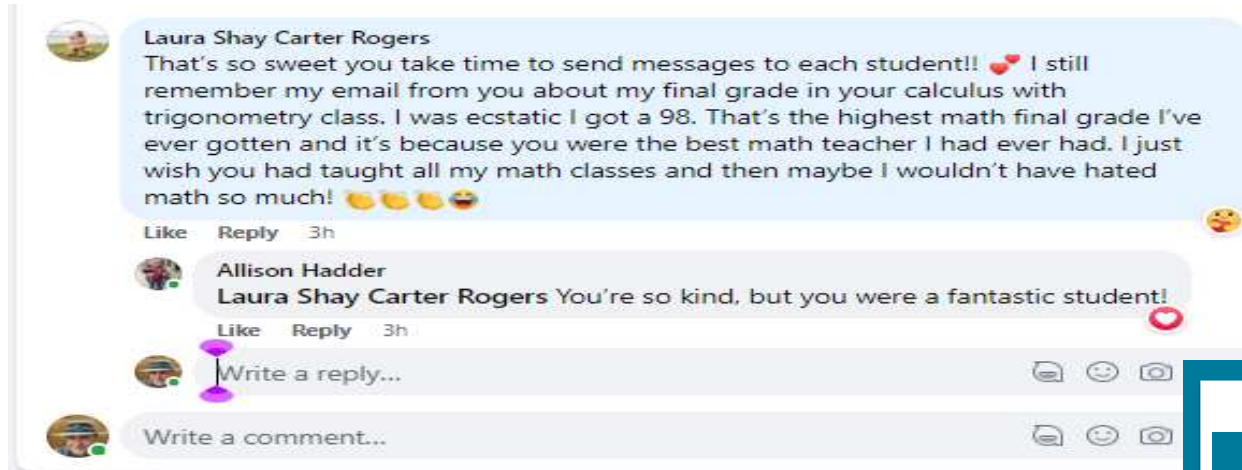
## Tip

Continuity of design from course to course eliminates student confusion, but a little something that is you - within your institution's guidelines - gives a sense of instructor presence.

# Know them and show them

- Create an introduction assignment that allows you to get to know your students.
- Note their preferred name, current struggles or accomplishments, goals, etc.
- Save this in a spreadsheet.
- Refer to it before any individual communication and weave the information into your interaction.
- Credit for this goes to Ms. Angie Lazarus. She does it and says that students respond positively because she “knows” them

	A	B	C	D	
	First Name	Surname	Goes by	Phone	Notes
2	Betty	Crocker		256-555-9876	Culinary student
3	Cynthia	Cutter	Cookie	334-555-2468	She's very sharp.
4	Sarah	Leigh		251-555-4321	Nobody doesn't like her.
5	Lilly	Putin	Lilly	659-555-1359	From a small island
6	Suzy	Que	Suzy	938-555-6789	Extremely sweet!
	Robert	Wire	Bob	205-555-1234	Works on a ranch
	...			202.555.5007	



## Congratulate and console.

After exams or major assignments, individually message students about the results of the exam or assignment. Yeah, it will take time, but it communicates you see them as individuals, not a collective.

Credit for this goes to Ms. Allison Hadder. You can see for yourself how students appreciate this. It says something to them for you to take the time to communicate individually.

# POST OR MESSAGE CONSISTENTLY.



## Tip

Open modules and make weekly course announcements consistently at the same time. Do NOT make students wonder what to do.

# POST OR MESSAGE RANDOMLY.



## Tip

Periodically - usually midweek - make an announcement about something good in the news (good luck) or an upcoming campus event, etc.

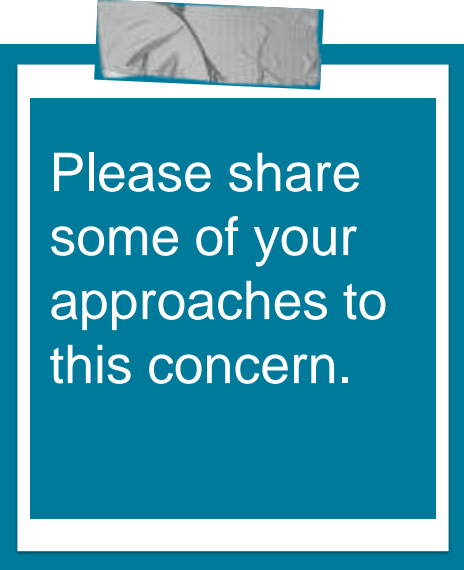
**Bonus Tip:  
Hide Easter Eggs!**

**Question:**

What is Dr. Rizzo's family's home village in Sicily?



# HOW DO YOU CREATE A SENSE OF PRESENCE IN YOUR ONLINE COURSE?



Please share  
some of your  
approaches to  
this concern.



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Thanks for your time!

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