



What does effective online learning look like?

SYNCHRONOUS ACTIVITIES

In a traditional face-to-face classroom, interactions occur at the same point in time or synchronously. Online synchronous activities such as video conferencing or chatrooms are one popular choice for instructors transitioning a course to DL. Features of effective courses using synchronous activities include:

Real-Time Interactivity

With good synchronous activities, instructors and students must be able to interact in real time. Certainly, it is possible to interact through text or chat alone, but this approach is not as spontaneous and lacks personal connection. Video-conferencing capabilities offered by CVR Teams can be used to effectively allow your students to see and hear one another, and foster a sense of community and genuine back-and-forth discussion.

When you can see your students in the virtual classroom, it is also easy to see who is engaged without needing a stream of text. Likewise, you will be able to read verbal cues to determine student comprehension or reaction to a topic and then adjust your approach accordingly.

Document Sharing and Annotation

In addition to video, audio, and text chat, an optimal video-conferencing setup for synchronous learning includes a workspace for document sharing or a virtual whiteboard. This space can be used for freehand drawing, live note-taking, sharing PDF files, a slideshow, or other forms of multimedia. Sharing documents with students facilitates engagement with the course material. Markup tools allow drawing, highlighting, and entering text on preloaded documents or a blank page. Using these tools, you can work through practice problems or engage in a variety of other learning activities. Real-time annotation engages students in applying knowledge and promotes a shared classroom experience.

CVR Teams will be the technology of choice for these types of activities.

Effective Use of Instructor-Student Interaction Time

Students learn better in an active and engaged classroom, whether in face-to-face instruction or online. Class time online, though, is often limited, so one way to make better use of synchronous time is to have preparation activities such as readings or videos with questions to focus the students' attention. You can use your online time then by engaging the students in activities that build on the preparatory activities. For example, students can apply their knowledge to solve problems and discuss them as a group.

ASYNCHRONOUS ACTIVITIES

In addition to synchronous learning, try to make use of the available tools and technologies for supporting asynchronous learning. With asynchronous activities, students can work through materials at their own pace, usually with built-in guidance and feedback that you as the instructor provide.

There are many different asynchronous tools available, including:

Text and images

E-books

Stand-alone slideshows

Prerecorded video and audio

Interactive lessons

Interactive videos