

# Basics of Teaching Online

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## Strategies for Effective Online Teaching

There are some key differences between the online classroom and the face-to-face classroom. To engage your students and help them succeed, you need to understand how these learning environments are similar—and how they differ. When teaching online, you should consider how you can effectively apply your in-person teaching strategies to the online environment.

As you look at these resources, think about the following questions:

- What are the biggest differences between teaching online and teaching in person?
- How can you make sure students understand your online classroom expectations?
- How does establishing a consistent pattern of communication improve the online student experience?

## Resources



**Reading:** [Strategies for Creating a Successful Online Classroom](#)

Read this article to learn some basic techniques you can use to improve student success in an online classroom. As you read, think about how you might adapt the methods you use in a face-to-face classroom to better serve students online.



**Video:** [8 Lessons Learned from Teaching Online](#)

In this video, experienced educators share tips about what online teachers should do to support their students. While the experts in the video work at universities, their lessons also apply to K–12.



**Reading:** [Key Differences Between Online and Face-to-Face Teaching](#)

This article explores some similarities and differences between teaching online and face-to-face. It touches on the kinds of support and interactions online students might need.



**Reading:** [Best Practices in K-12 Online and Hybrid Courses](#)

Read “Section II: Approaches to Quality Online Learning” (pp. 11–20) to learn about best practices in K–12 online and hybrid courses. This reading discusses standards for online course design and tips for training online instructors.

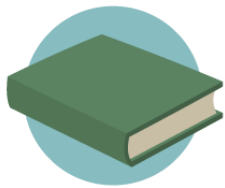
## Skills Online Students Need to Be Successful

Many skills that students need to succeed in a face-to-face classroom are also needed in the online classroom. But, there are certain skills that online students in particular need to succeed, like persistence and good time management.

In particular, think about these questions:

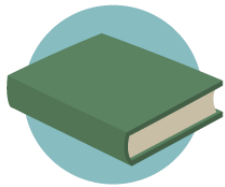
- How will you know if students are struggling with these skills?
- What are some ways you can help students grow these skills?

## Resources



Reading: [Tips for Students: Twelve Strategies for Academic Success](#)

Written for students, this list shares 12 things students should do to help them succeed at school. These strategies apply to both face-to-face and online classrooms.



Reading: [What Makes a Successful Online Learner?](#)

This article lists traits that students should have to do well in an online learning environment.



Video: [The Shift From Engaging Students to Empowering Learners](#)

Students need to be self-motivated to feel engaged when learning online. In this video, a middle-school-teacher-turned-college-professor talks about how important it is for students to *want* to learn, instead of feeling like they *have* to learn.



Website: [Using E-Learning to Engage Introverts](#)

This article shares some tips on how online learning can be used to reach students with different personality types.

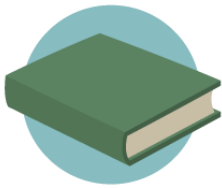
## How to Engage Students When Teaching Online

For an online course to be effective, students need to feel engaged. If students aren't engaged in the online classroom, this can hurt both their performance and their persistence.

Think about the following:

- How can you set reasonable and clear expectations for interactions in your online classroom?
- What techniques can you use to improve the quality of student participation in your online classroom?
- How can your communication strategies create connections between you and your students and foster a sense of community?

### Resources



**Reading:** [Increasing Student Engagement With Technology](#)

This article provides practical suggestions for using technology to your advantage in the online learning environment.



**Video:** [Student Engagement and Motivation Strategies and Tips \(9:20\)](#)

This video explores a variety of methods to get students engaged, from building relationships to setting clear expectations. While aimed at middle school teachers, the tips apply to any grade level or subject area.



**Reading:** [Humanizing Online Teaching and Learning, Chapter 3](#)

Communicating effectively with your students online will help you build positive relationships with them. These relationships can often lead to your students being more engaged. This article offers advice on crafting timely, relevant, and useful communications.