Instructional Strategies to Facilitate Social Presence Online

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Goals

▪ Community of Inquiry Model

▪ Survey and Results

▪ Use of Video, Periodic Announcements, and Course Pathways Design in Online Courses

▪ Suggestions
Community of Inquiry Model

Instructional Strategies

- Content Videos
- Periodic Announcements/Discussions
- Course Pathways Design
Study Design and Instrument

- Online Student Connectedness Survey (Bolliger & Inan, 2012)

- Factors of Connectedness
  - Comfort
  - Community and Social Presence
  - Instructor Facilitation
  - Interaction and Collaboration
Survey Results

- Administered during Spring and Summer 2016 semesters in Online College Algebra, Statistics, and Business Calculus sections

- Number of Survey Participants:
  - Spring – 105
  - Summer - 118
## Survey Results

### Learner Connectedness Subscales

(1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spring (n = 105)</th>
<th>Summer (n = 118)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(M)</td>
<td>(SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor Facilitation</td>
<td>4.36</td>
<td>.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfort</td>
<td>4.28</td>
<td>.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction and Collaboration</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and Social Presence</td>
<td>2.73</td>
<td>.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Student Perceptions - Videos

BEFORE:

- Maybe a video of the problems being worked out with an explanation.
- Better video notes
- Videos should be added to help more visual learners succeed.
- Videos of the instructor showing us problems worked out
## Student Perceptions - Videos

(1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>M</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I like it when my instructor uses instructional videos.</td>
<td>4.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional videos are a good way to learn.</td>
<td>4.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I prefer instructors use videos that they created rather than videos created by others.</td>
<td>3.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I watched most of the instructional videos created by my instructor in this course.</td>
<td>3.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing instructional videos help establish an instructor as being perceived as a “real” person and being “there”.</td>
<td>4.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Perceptions – Announcements/Discussions

BEFORE:
- Maybe more personal and fun discussions.
- More ungraded/non required discussions
- A more casual discussion board, one that is less formal and aimed at general questions and concerns about the class
- Student discussion lounge
Announcements/Discussions – What was Done

- More Frequent Check Ins
- Deadline Reminders.
- What’s Coming Up.
- What’s Going on in My Life/Your Life?

The Water Cooler

IF YOU DO NOT STUDY
YOU SHALL NOT PASS!

YOU WERE CONFUSED,
AND DIDN'T ASK FOR HELP?
Student Perceptions – Announcements/Discussions

AFTER:

⬛ The Professor was very good with communicating to everyone. He sent out reminder emails, and responded very promptly when I had questions. The discussion board was also available and he promoted it to us several times.

⬛ Whenever we share our lives and information. That is how I found the classmate I study with.

⬛ The professor gave us discussions to make us ask questions and receive help from him and the other students.

⬛ Weekly updates on what's happening on and when grades should show up in Blackboard.
Student Perceptions - Design

Measures of Variation

Step 1
Watch the section lecture video.

Step 2
View the multimedia eText.

Step 3
Do your homework.
Strategies to Improve Social Presence

- What do you do in your online courses to promote social presence?

- How did your students respond to those strategies?

- What strategies would you like to try in the future?
Thank you!

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References

