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# Online Learning Strategies and Models

# Principles of Effective Online Teaching



be aware of key concepts and types of tools,

consider what is known about these,

to have an approach that allows you to trial ways of teaching online and to understand the results (OU, 2017).

# Principles of Effective Online Teaching

- Create a schedule
- Keep learners informed
- Foster a sense of community
- Ask for feedback
- Recognise diversity (OU, 2017).

# Create a Schedule

When moving to an asynchronous online learning environment it is tempting for students to expect that the teacher should be always available.

You need to establish a set schedule of when you are, and are not, available to learners.

If they will need synchronous support, drop-in tutorials can be scheduled.

Provide a schedule of expectations to learners – tell them by when you consider they should have reached each milestone in the course and follow up when students miss core deadlines (OU, 2017).

Image Source: <https://icon-library.com>



# Keep Learners Informed

Make sure you repeat information about core deadlines often.

If there are to be synchronous learning events (such as webinars and group tutorials) make sure learners are reminded of the event several times in the weeks and days leading up to each event.

If there is to be a change to planned activities, for example if you will be away and unable to respond to messages for a few days, make sure the learners are kept informed well in advance, and designate an alternate person the learners can contact if they need assistance urgently (OU, 2017).

Image Source: <https://icon-library.com>



# Foster a Sense of Community

Building community is important for online learning, where learners can readily drift away or feel isolated due to the nature of online engagement. So think about steps to keep them together and engaged.



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In an online environment, the role of the teacher can become more supportive and collegiate, such that the learners understand that your primary role is to help them to succeed on the course. It can be useful to construct an individual relationship with each learner rather than always relying on mass or automated emails (OU, 2017).

# Ask for Feedback

You need to check at regular intervals how the learners are doing, evaluate their progression through the course materials, and ensure they are being supported. Those who respond negatively, and those who do not respond at all, will need your attention to help them develop study strategies to get them back on track.

Online feedback mechanisms can provide more formative feedback for tutors than traditional paper questionnaires (Donovan et al., 2006).

It can also be very beneficial to engage in peer observation with fellow online teachers (Jones and Gallen, 2016, OU, 2017).

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# Recognise Diversity

One of the main advantages of the online environment is that students can learn in their own way and pace. Try not to curtail the freedoms that online study offers by imposing unnecessary limitations on the way students undertake their learning.

Differentiated instruction is important here. Online instructors can usefully tailor their instruction according to factors such as the individual's ability or interests (Beasley and Beck, 2017).

However, this might need to be considered in light of the value of giving learners some shared structure to follow (OU, 2017).



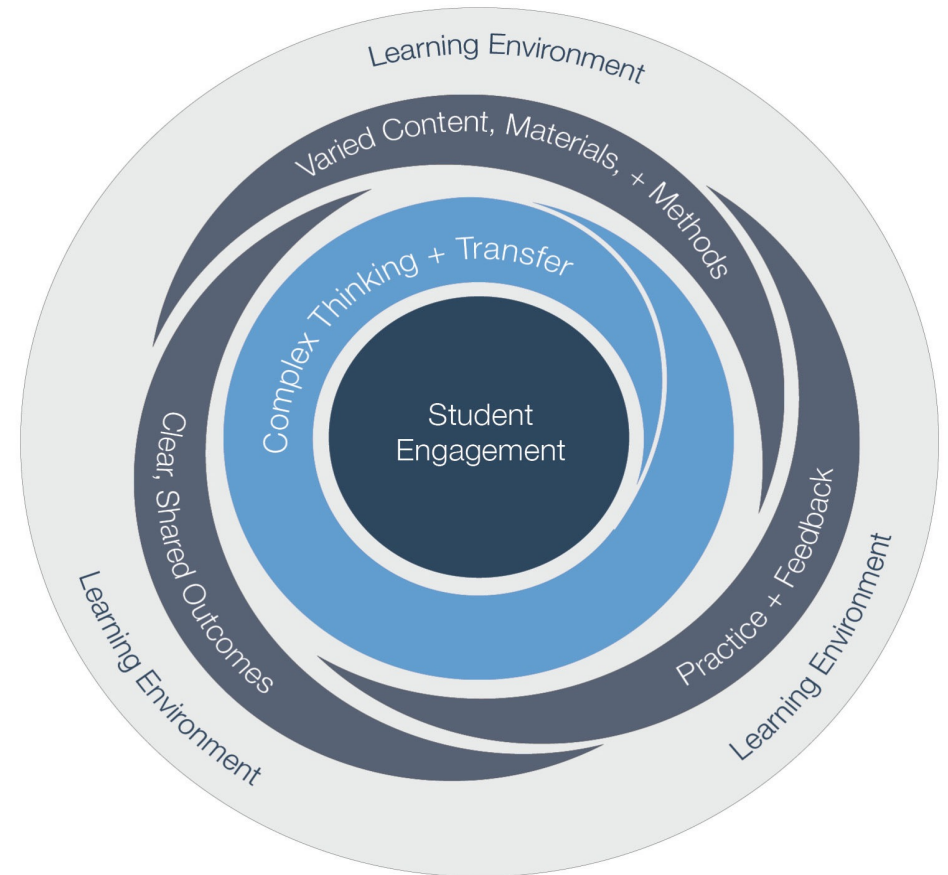
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# Elements of Effective Instruction Framework

The Elements of Effective Instruction Framework by the Great Schools Partnership outlines five intertwined elements of instructional practice that complement and enhance one another:

- Learning environment
- Clear, shared outcomes
- Varied Content, Materials and Methods
- Practice & Feedback
- Complex Thinking + Transfer

When integrated into learning experiences, these elements foster student engagement with the ultimate goal of improving student outcomes and achievement.



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Thank you for attention



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