BEING AN EFFECTIVE ONLINE TEACHER

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Hundreds and thousands of Teachers and students are now having difficulties with our new education setting due to the uncertain pandemic. This put the educational system’s output to an imminent phase but there are many ways on how to become an effective online teacher.

One way is familiarizing yourself on how you are going to use your equipment. Sure, you might not be physically in a classroom but there are ways to make yourself known in the digital domain. Take a few days to learn on how you are going to manipulate the technology you are going to use. Next is expecting the unexpected. Technology is not perfect. Technological equipment such as laptops, tablets and smartphones have their own limit too that relies on internet or data that sometimes loses its signal and makes its capability to function well during your online class or discussion. Do not be afraid to tell your students that technical issues are part of this kind of setting. That is why having back up plans is a must. Thus record a video of your discussion that you can send to your students later on. In this case, the students would not miss any of your lessons because they can watch it as soon as they have their signals back.

You will need to provide clear set of expectations. These expectations should include what they can expect from you as their online teacher and what you expect from them as your students. Being transparent to your students is also needed in this online class setting. Make time allotments on when your deadlines will be for their homework and activities. Give them enough interval to answer everything and make sure that you
are coordinated with the other teachers so the activities are well scheduled. Welcoming the students is also part but in a virtual way. You can record a short clip for your welcoming message that includes the reassurance on how fun and exciting online class will be. Students are also new to this kind of set up. Hence, your students must feel that learning in school and at home could be the same. Make them understand that their participation with the discussions will make a large factor on their grades. Set a time or signal wherein they can make responses with your questions. Let them send an emoticon which signals that they want to share some thoughts or ideas.

The aim to this online classes is for the students to become involved in your content for as long as possible, so you need a greater opportunity to help them engage with this virtual learning. Professor Bill Pelz also discussed in his “Principles of Effective Online Pedagogy” report that the students that are engaged in a content help them earn more knowledge and learning. You can use different kinds of learning tools for better engagement. One of these is using the combination of both synchronous and asynchronous way. Another tool is blending the traditional and advanced learning styles into one and lastly, collaborative audio and visual tools to bring more attention from the students. You can also make discussions within the whole class and you can set them as well into groups to share their thoughts and ideas that can support their fellow classmates as well.

Getting feedbacks from them is also an essential component to all effective learning environments. Once feedbacks are discussed, you as their teacher could identify if there is learning with your students. It will help the online learning experience to become engaging, informative and motivational for all the students. Through feedbacks the students will be able to identify their strengths and weaknesses so they could improve. You can also encourage the group feedbacks because it can also lead to peer engagement. Lastly, as their online teacher you should regularly check their online resources and applications. Collect and check the modules they have submitted.
as soon as they have sent it. Also, assist students who are having difficulties with their materials.

With these effective ways you can be more confident with your online teaching skills and learning materials. You will also feel that being an effective teacher will lead your students to a more collaborative online learning.

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