ENGAGING DISTRACTED ONLINE LEARNERS

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Have you ever struggled engaging distracted learners? Different scenarios will be encountered by the teachers for sure especially today that the Department of Education started to embrace the advancement of learning delivery mode into online schooling.

For many adults, taking online class is a new experience. Even so, learners with the best intention can also get distracted when they are supposed to pay attention. Educators must anticipate and prevent these by using new strategies to engage online students.

Train teachers in online learning. Many teachers are very good in executing subject matter but aren’t trained in online learning. An online teacher must recognize not only how the learners learn but as well as on how to leverage technology to help learners take in and maintain information. Even if the teacher scored well on different evaluations, an online environment requires new set of skills. The teacher has to familiarize being themselves in front of camera, as if to become attention-holding, confident and to present your personable self as you face the camera to teach.

Give learners a sense of ownership and control. People are more interested when they have some say in whatever they do. In that case, give learners the choice in doing their assignments. They may dive in deeper into specific topics. They may also prefer one delivery method over another. Self-assessment also provides opportunity for taking control over learning path. If learners believe that a lesson is too easy, allow them to skip over and jump based on their self-assessment results. Teachers may also give an
opportunity for feedbacking as to their learning experience and content. Hence, the teacher could find out about the adjustments can make along the way.

Plan for delivery diversity. Teachers may engage learners through the use of mixed content delivery methods such as video, text, audio, and presentations. Also, teacher may bring in guest teacher and speakers so the learners don’t get bored of seeing the same face as well as hearing the same voice. Element of surprise is a plus.

Be a storyteller. People love hearing good stories that can relate in some way. Stories opens one’s emotions so these are good means to remember information delivered. Therefore, assign stories to read, or even have learners watch someone tell a story about how they practice a principle in real life. Use stories to draw the importance of what they are learning.

Regularly update content. One way to differentiate the content delivery is to update it with the emerging trends and practices through research and developments, news, as well as policies and regulations. Moreover, teachers may modify their lessons with latest articles, videos, and conference session recordings. Keep the delivery of learning relevant, timely and current to gain learner’s interest and attention.

Encourage accountability. Just like on a regular (face-to-face) schooling where teacher checks attendance, and calls attention of those who frequently commit absenteeism, the teacher leverage the email notification feature of the learning management system. Teachers may send automated emails to learners who don’t log in for certain number of days or to those who don’t complete their assignments on time. This can be done to reach out learners to see what’s going on with them.

Help learners nurture intrinsic motivation. Remind learners how their knowledge and skills will help them make difference in the world. Talk about how this expertise help them improve and contribute to the company or industry and profession. Create and share essential points that will reinforce the purpose and true meaning behind their
learning completion. Teacher’s effort to improve learning experience shows learners the care about their growth and success. The more that the learners get more engaged in learning experience, they are more likely to come back for additional education.

References:

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