



This Week on the Ohlone eCampus

Week of November 30, 2020

Focus Topic: The Power of Learning in Groups

Humans are social animals. It therefore stands to reason that we would learn better in a group. Collaboration allows students with different backgrounds and experiences to work together to solve a common problem. Imagine the benefit of multiple perspectives given a variety of life experiences. For many challenges, there are multiple pathways to a solution. Working in groups brings people with different skill sets, passions, and knowledge together to reach a common goal. Finally, collaborative learning helps prepare our students for employment by developing soft skills such as decision making, flexibility, and problem-solving. But don't just believe me; Here is some research that supports [the value of collaborative learning in higher education](#). You might also enjoy this short (< 5 minute) video created by Helen Graves of @ONE: [Why Group Assignments are Worth Your Attention](#) and a wealth of additional resources to help you get started with group work.

Professional Development

Ohlone Online Teaching Capstone Course – Starts December 7

This 6-week course is a combination of group and individual activities. We'll review and discuss the CVC Quality Course Review Rubric as a guide for creating effective, efficient, and engaging online courses. Using the backwards design process, participants will create an orientation and two content modules including assessment for a fully online course you will be teaching in an upcoming semester. Self-assessment and peer review will be essential elements used to check course alignment with the quality rubric. You'll meet one-on-one with the Instructional Designer at least twice during the course. These individual sessions will be live and held between December 20, 2020 and January 4, 2021. Note: This course requires application of skills and knowledge gained in Introduction to Online Teaching and Learning, 10-10-10 Communication that Matters, Creating Accessible Course Content, and Assessment in Digital Learning. We highly recommend that participants have completed these courses so that they can be successful in the Capstone Course.

Course runs December 7 to January 17 – Don't miss out on this opportunity to take your course to the next level. [REGISTER HERE TODAY!](#)

Additional Professional Development

VoiceThread Advanced Skills: December 1 at 4:00 pm - [REGISTRATION REQUIRED](#)

Covers integration of Google Drive content via media sources, change language display, adjust playback settings, and more. Portions of the workshop will be hands on.

VoiceThread Basics 1: Upload, Comment, and Share: January 5 at 11:00 am [REGISTRATION REQUIRED](#)

VoiceThread Basics 2: Groups and Secure Sharing: January 12 at 11:00 am [REGISTRATION REQUIRED](#)

Tech Tips

We would be remiss if we didn't remind you to [regularly check for Zoom updates](#). The latest version (as of the publishing of this eCampus Weekly Update) is 5.4.3. Recent updates have made it easier to report abuse to zoom, suspend participant activity, and pin chat messages. If you haven't discovered it yet, they have also improved the ability to use background graphics. (My old Dell computer would not support backgrounds until this recent update. Oh! And I am particularly enjoying the "touch up" feature – goodbye wrinkles!)

eCampus Inspirations – Continue to Learn With Us



INSPIRATIONS – Creating Groups in Canvas

Day	Date	Time	Facilitator	Zoom Link
Friday	12/4	8:30 – 9:30 am	eCampus	Meeting Link
Wednesday	12/9	12:00 – 1:00 pm	eCampus	Meeting Link

General Office Hours

The eCampus Virtual Office is open every **Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:00 pm** via [Zoom](#). If this time does not work for your schedule, we continue to be available for one-on-one help sessions. Please [submit an IT Ticket](#) and be sure to include the following information: a few days/times you are available, and specific tasks/questions you would like assistance with. Your success is our primary concern!

Minimum Qualifications Training – LCW 2021

The last Minimum Qualifications Training (MQT) session before the start of spring 2021 semester is scheduled during Learning College Week – **January 19, 20 and 21** from **6:30 – 8:30 pm**. Any instructor scheduled to teach in a fully online and/or hybrid format must complete this 6-hour training. Talk with your Dean if you are unsure of the action to take. Mark your calendars today as this will be the last opportunity before the spring semester to meet the UFO training requirement for online teaching. If you have any questions, please email [eCampus](#), otherwise register for MQT by completing this [form](#).

Equity Corner

This week we're sharing section E4 of the [Peralta Online Equity Rubric](#) that focuses on diversity and inclusion. The worldwide web offers the opportunity to explore and link to diverse spaces and voices. Look at the number of hyperlinks included in the issues of eCampus weekly! Due to the nature of search engines and marketing companies, you do have to search wisely to explore and find diversity in your

sources. Even if you use private or incognito browser windows, search engines will show you sources based on your internet API address. To find diversity, add more specifics to your searches. Want to try it? Search “diversity over 60” and “diversity black voices” and “diversity white supremacy.” The digital world offers an opportunity for exploring and including diversity in our classes if we intentionally take the steps to locate and share a myriad of voices. Then we create safe spaces where all voices are heard and acknowledged.

Criteria	Incomplete	Aligned	Additional Exemplary Elements
E4: Diversity and Inclusion	Communications and activities do not yet demonstrate that diversity is valued.	Communications and activities demonstrate that students’ diverse identities, backgrounds, and cultures are valued.	Students analyze how diversity improves learning in classrooms, workplaces, and communities.

Notes from Mary

I think you’ve heard me say that you need to try things at least twice before moving on to another strategy or tool. Two times is definitely a minimum when it comes to trying groups in online courses. Several factors contribute to designing group projects that engage all members of a group in creation of a final product. For example, a project design needs to go beyond “divide and conquer” to reap the learning benefits of working together. Be sure that the project requires contributions from all members of the group into a cohesive final project. *Turning student groups into effective teams* by Oakley, Felder, Brent, and Elhajj (2004) provides suggestions for developing team skills in college classrooms. I’ve also used [Coping with Hitchhikers and Couch Potatoes](#) (Oakley, 2004) as a basis for discussion and development of project team guidelines. I’ve found that time spent jointly the expectations group projects are more effective.

As you work on your course design for Spring 2021, look for opportunities to incorporate shared learning experiences: group projects, peer reviews, study teams.

B. Oakley, R. M. Felder, R. Brent, I. Elhajj. (2004). Turning student groups into effective teams. *Journal of Student Centered Learning*, 2 (1). 9-34.