

# TIPS FOR ONLINE TEACHING:



## BE YOURSELF

Most instructors enjoy teaching in person because of the opportunity to interact with students. Distance learning can pose certain limitations to that interaction. Remember to be human and infuse your communications with warmth and support. Thank students for their hard work and dedication in class, let them know you're there to help them be successful and you're always available.



## PUT YOURSELF IN THEIR SHOES

Distance learning can create feelings of isolation and anxiety for some students. Imagine that you are the student, on your own, trying to make sense of what is in front of you on the screen. Get outside your own head — where your online class makes sense and everything is clear. Instead, try to envision how your students are experiencing the class. Are your instructions clear? Did you include a detailed grading rubric? Did you provide an example of a successful final project so students can see your expectations and don't have to muddle through while they wait for a reply from you?



## ADD VISUAL APPEAL

The appearance of our surroundings affects our enjoyment and our engagement. A little attention to presentation goes a long way. Do you have a lot of written lecture notes or instructions? Break up long chunks of text with subheads and space between paragraphs. Embed relevant images.

Include thumbnail videos that you've either created or sourced from YouTube, news sites, or library resources.



## EXPLAIN YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Online students can't ask for, or receive, clarification in the moment they first encounter your assignment instructions. Explain what you're looking for as clearly as possible. Think about writing directions as if you were having a conversation with a student, so they don't read like a textbook; create a short, informal video to flesh out details; share examples of previous student works that earned high marks or maybe even missed the mark