Interact with students

Interaction between students in breakout rooms

Focused activities with real-time interaction

Group presentations

Office hours

WHAT IS SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING?

Synchronous Learning is any activity in an online course that happens in real-time, like a Zoom meeting or a chat. Use synchronous activities to facilitate student interaction and build teacher presence.

WHAT IS ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING?

Asynchronous Learning is all the other activities in an online course that students can complete on their own schedule. Use Asynchronous Activities for course activities that benefit from students taking the time to carefully consider and analyze content and engage in constructive exchanges.

WHEN TO USE SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

Synchronous learning can provide opportunities for:

- Asking and answering questions in real-time
- Spontaneous interaction between students and the instructor
- Instructors to receive immediate feedback on student learning
- Infinity or “social” interactions (interactions not related to course content)

WHEN TO USE ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

Asynchronous learning can provide opportunities for:

- Completing work on their own schedule
- Taking the necessary time to digest and re-read difficult content
- Composing and revising responses in asynchronous discussions
- Reviewing and revisiting content

THING TO CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING YOUR CLASS

ADVANTAGES OF SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

- Provides opportunity for asking & answering of questions in real time, as they come up
- Provides opportunity for spontaneous interaction and exchange between students and the instructor
- Adds the “human” element
- Builds the classroom community
- Increases the number or “social” interactions (interactions not related to course content)

ADVANTAGES OF ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

- Students can complete work on their own timetable
- Students have the opportunity to take the necessary time to digest and re-read content that is difficult in order to deepen understanding
- Students have time to compose and revise responses in asynchronous class discussions, increasing access to those with language and other barriers

DISADVANTAGES OF SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

- Synchronous learning can widen the divide for learners with:
  - Certain disabilities
  - Unstable Internet access
  - Inequitable access to device and other equipment
  - Caregiving responsibilities
  - No access to a suitable space to participate
  - Time zone differences

DISADVANTAGES OF ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

- Without proper motivation, it is possible for students to put off completing weekly work and fall behind
- Students can feel isolated or disconnected from the instructor and other students

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