At a Glance: Hybrid Teaching Best Practices and Tools

The Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

The New Normal

Education practices evolve with technology and culture. We had to make some larger than normal leaps forward in our evolution during the pandemic and some of those changes are unlikely to return to pre-pandemic norms. One of those changes is the popularity of hybrid classes. For the purposes of this guide, we will consider hybrid classes to be those that involve students attending in person and students attending remotely at the same time. This style of classroom presents new challenges and opportunities. This guide will lay down some basic practices and suggest some possible tools for this specific type of teaching.

Best Practices

- Provide a way for all students to participate.
- Communicate your expectations clearly regarding all elements of the course, but especially regarding student participation during class time for both in-person and online students.
- Build community so that online students feel included.
- Make all course materials and learning experiences accessible in both modalities.
- Have a contingency plan for technical problems

Hybrid Class Interaction/Activity Ideas

- Have students write briefly about a topic, then have students from both groups share and defend/discuss their responses. This could be done by having students respond on the discussion board in Blackboard so that all answers are visible while being discussed allowing for students to other students' responses which will draw more students into the conversation.
- Alternatively, the previous example could be done as a think-pair-share by having students in class discuss with a neighbor and students in Zoom placed in breakout groups. This could lead into pairs or groups creating a consensus statement reconciling or synthesizing their ideas to share with the class or turn in as an assignment. Students could be moved to breakout rooms while they write formulate and write down their thoughts.
- Use polling tools that can be accessed by all students and then hold a discussion of the results. In-person students can use their phones or laptops. See the tools below for recommended polling tools.
- Share a google doc with the students to be used for collaborative note-keeping. Students can add comments, questions, and additional resources to share. Appoint a lead notetaker or two and have that duty rotate each class. This person can also type out questions asked by students in class if the remote students have trouble hearing.

- When lecturing, consider including a slide or an icon in your presentation that reminds you to periodically highlight the online students by checking the chat or verbally asking if they have any questions or thoughts or have a student volunteer monitor the chat for questions or comments that should be brought to the class's attention.

Tools for the Hybrid class

Polling
- Slido (highly recommended for synchronous interactions)
- Poll Everywhere (use this one if some students are asynchronous)

Collaboration Tools for assignments
- Google docs, sheets, sites, slides
- Blackboard groups

Collaborative Tools for planning, brainstorming, and creativity
- Mural
- Padlet

Collaborative Annotation
- Hypothesis
- Perusall
- VoiceThread

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