



## Strategies that Foster Social Presence & Community

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- INTRODUCTIONS.** Use the first week of class for students to get to know one another and to create an atmosphere where students feel welcome. This can be done through student introductions and activities, such as Icebreakers, which allow students to get to know one another. The more students know about other members of the learning community, the more trustful and responsive they become in terms of academic discourse.
- TURN ON CAMERAS.** During Zoom meetings, have students turn on their cameras on to aid in social presence.
- PROMOTE STUDENT COOPERATION.** Assign a variety of assignments that promote student cooperation. Encouraging students to help one another is an essential component to having a successful learning community.
- GROUP WORK.** Divide learners into small groups to engage in collaborative work and discourse. Groups should have between 3-4 students. It is OK to change the groups at least once during the semester so learners can engage with multiple perspectives throughout the course.
- RESPECT STUDENTS' DIVERSE OPINIONS/STATEMENTS.** Students should feel that their point of view is acknowledged by other course participants. Students should not have to worry about being judged on their statements.
- ENCOURAGE NON-ACADEMIC CONVERSATIONS.** Provide a discussion forum where students are able to interact with one another in a respectful, non-academic environment, like a Student Social Lounge.

*These are just a few strategy examples. For more email [coursedesign@uidaho.edu](mailto:coursedesign@uidaho.edu)*