

Online learning FRENCH BEST PRACTICE

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Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union
2020-3-IT03-KA205-020106

Partners:

DCNAustria
Disaster Competence Network Austria

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SOLUTION
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Online learning

2020 has welcomed many into the world of online learning who had not previously explored it.

While this environment can be an occasion for innovation in education, it can be challenging to deliver effective and interactive online classes.

In the following slides there are number of tools and activities that the educators can use to make their online classes dynamic and engaging.

TIPS FOR ONLINE DYNAMIC CLASSES

Community

- One of the most important aspects of any learning environment is community. For many students classes are an occasion for socialization.
- In an online format, instructors must work to find creative ways to help develop real relationships with their students, and among the class.
- Instructors need to keep things personal by addressing students by their names.
- Every course should have a place where introductions can occur.
- Students should be encouraged to give some details about their lives to help establish connections with other students.

Communication

- Communication can be a real tool when teaching online.
- Send an introductory message the day the course opens, and post a “welcome video” giving your students some key points from the syllabus and identifying any assignments or assessments that they should be preparing for.
- Follow up with messages each week and remind students frequently that they can reach out to you with questions and that you will be available for them.
- Offer a weekly “live office hour” where students can join a video conference and ask questions or discuss the week’s lecture if they would like to.
- Be sure that students are aware that you are checking in on the course and on them regularly.
- Do your best to respond to questions within twenty-four hours.

Clarity

- Due to the nature of e-learning, it is easy for students to overlook important details in an online class, especially if it is the first time that they are taking an online course or using this specific software.
- Students are learning how to navigate buttons and use new online platforms, while also trying to take in the information of your course.
- Therefore, keep things simple and straightforward. If there is something that you can tell them about your expectations, do so up-front.

Consistency

- Strive to be consistent in the way that you present your material in your online classes. Students are trying to take in many new skills while adjusting to online learning and digesting your course material. Therefore, you serve your students by creating a very structured presentation over the term.
- Organize your class so that each aspect is in the same place each week.
- Use the same rubrics for the same kinds of assignments.
- Give the same reminders each week, such as, “don’t forget your quiz is due by Friday!”
- This element of routine will help your students to feel more comfortable as each week goes by and limit stress for them, allowing them to focus on the content of the course.

Creativity

- Use images on your static content, so that students are not only reading over static words.
- Find videos that are memorable, perhaps sometimes funny or purely illustrative, simply to break up any monotony and to help students make mental notes of main themes in your course.
- If your course is live at times, use fun backgrounds that are relevant to your course.
- Remember that there are many different styles of learning. While you cannot completely cater to each of these, you can incorporate these different styles throughout the course. This can help different students take roles, which helps to prevent only certain students from dominating the course and others falling behind. A truly successful online course is one that helps every student succeed.

TOOLS FOR ONLINE DYNAMIC CLASSES

Real-time interaction

You can facilitate interactions among students by setting up opportunities for learners to meet online synchronously.

Using web conference applications, like Zoom or Teams, you can create a variety of synchronous interaction opportunities, such as small group discussions, whole class discussions and study groups.

Remember to provide clear explanations on how to use these digital tools or your learners may feel lost.

Creativity and small groups

The advantage of having small classes is that everyone can participate in the discussions.

You can create even smaller groups (2-3 people) for more intimate interaction, and rotate these groups to expand interactions by using the “Rooms” option of Zoom or other tools.

Try this technique to encourage a richer dialogue: create discussion prompts that are open ended, such as requiring students to provide examples or asking them to interpret a concept from a variety of perspectives. You could also set up student-facilitated discussion opportunities where students craft the discussion prompt and guide the ensuing dialogue.

Challenging activities

Learners love challenging each other and test their skills.

A great tool to do that is Kahoot (<https://kahoot.com/>), which also offers occasions for discussions and exchange of ideas/questions.



To use it, you should prepare the activity by clearly explaining to your students that they need to download the mobile app to play. It is very intuitive and learners will have good fun.

Brainstorming and Presentations

Sometimes it can be hard to encourage all the learners to express their ideas.

Mentimeter

A great activity that comes from the web to encourage discussion is based on word-clouds. They are particularly useful in the brainstorming phase when you ask your students to share thoughts evoked by a work or an image.

For this, you can use Mentimeter (<https://www.mentimeter.com>) which also allow you to give presentation and create short quizzes.

It is particularly easy to use because after you will create your activity, the website will generate an url that you can share with your students on the chat of the tele-conference tool you are using.

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Collaborative boards

It is important to boost the creativity of your students. Brainstorming, video meetings & collaboration in real-time are all elements that will make your class dynamic and interactive.



You can consider to use Jamboard, a part of Google Workspace:

<https://jamboard.google.com/>

It is a digital, interactive whiteboard available both on a physical screen panel and on tablet, mobile and web applications