

Teaching Online: Tips for Engaging and Presenting

2021 OSU Extension Master Gardener Training
March 5, 2021

Brian Raison, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Leadership Field Specialist
Ohio State Univ. Extension
raison.1@osu.edu



1

March 5, 2021

Teaching Online: Tips for Engaging and Presenting

Topics include:

- How to connect before presenting content
 - o Meaningful opening exercises
 - o Engaging questions you can use
- Technical tips for presenting in Zoom
- Analog approaches that increase engagement

2

How to ideas:

#1: Do what you would do in class

Explain how learning materials and courses activities achieve your learning objectives.

[In class, you introduce and contextualize materials... so do that online.]

How did I start this class?

I had an opening question. Then I shared actual photos of programs... context... and then asked if "going online" could achieve the same results (or be better)... could it work for our audiences?

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES

3

How to ideas:

Facilitate active learning and engagement

Create interactions for students with the content, with you, and with each other.

[Keep active learning going by bringing discussion and collaboration online.]

My online grad classes:

- I divided a 22-student course in half for discussion boards.
- I assigned GROUP PROJECTS and presentations.

Right now, I could break you into groups... etc.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES

4

How to ideas:



Challenge yourself (to learn new techniques for engagement).

Challenge your audience:
Ask them for ideas on "interaction" that they've seen in other programs.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES

5

Have some fun. (use video clips)



So what just happened?

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES

6

Even if your program is scripted (mandated)...

Your language, your demeanor, your humility, your care all show through.

Please add:

- Storytelling
- Safety
- Diversity
- Andragogy
- Engaging experiments

*Scripted?
No Problem.*

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

EFNEP Making a Difference Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

CFAES

7

What **engages** an audience in an online class?

NOTE:
If we had more time... I'd pause and do this experiment to re-engage you...
...maybe even using breakout rooms!

Think. Pair. Share. ← Tell why!

8

Experiments (vs. activities)

YOUR introduction (your words / framing) matters:

Do not say, "Let's do an icebreaker."

Nor, "Let's do an activity."

Instead... frame it as an experiment.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Source: Adapted from Chad Littlefield. Online resources at <https://weandtheCF>

WU

9

Connection Before Content

Online Mantra: "Connection Before Content"

Key points:

1. Activities relate to your ***purpose***.
2. Connection allows participants to connect to ***each other***.

"The question is not, 'How can we make the engagement as if we were in person?' Instead, let's ask, 'How can we make it better?'"

-- Chad Littlefield

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Source: Adapted from Chad Littlefield. Online resources at <https://weandocf.com/>



10

Connection Before Content

Online Mantra: "Connection Before Content"

In a large group, everyone **cannot** simultaneously share.

But in the Chat Box, all voices can be heard... at once. All can share... connect.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Source: Adapted from Chad Littlefield. Online resources at <https://weandocf.com/>



11

Connection Before Content

Online Mantra: "Connection Before Content"

- Unofficial start

- Draw an image showing your definition of leadership. Have others interpret.
- Find an object on your desk that describes _____.

These are any type of activity that might engage folks prior to the official start of the webinar.

Play music. Ask in Chat: Type your favorite song title!

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Source: Adapted from Chad Littlefield. Online resources at <https://weandocf.com/>



12

Connection Before Content

Online Mantra: "Connection Before Content"

- **One-word Chat box:**
 - *Type one word describing how you're doing right now.*
- **Scavenger hunt:**
 - *Who has an _____ in their camera shot?*
- **Rename yourself:**
 - *Type your first name, hyphen, and something a close friend would describe you as.*
- **Get out of your bubble:**
 - *Next slide...*

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Source: Adapted from Chad Littlefield. Online resources at <https://weandtheCF.com>



13

Connection Before Content

Online Mantra: "Connection Before Content"

- **Get out of your bubble:**
 - *Run to your kitchen... grab your favorite food and bring it back. (don't show it yet)*
 - *I'll count to "3" and have everyone share at once.*

(You're MOVING people! Getting blood flowing.)

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Source: Adapted from Chad Littlefield. Online resources at <https://weandtheCF.com>



14

Connection Before Content

Online Mantra: "Connection Before Content"

- **Engagement questions:**
 - *What is one thing life is teaching you right now?*
 - *What is taking up lots of your brain space right now?*
 - *What brings you joy?*
- Don't bulk at this one. Whether your talking with a classmate, a CEO, or your teenage daughter/son, this question is powerful and can set a positive tone for an entire conversation / meeting / semester.

Then (critical reflection)

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Source: Adapted from Chad Littlefield. Online resources at <https://weandtheCF.com>



15

Connection Before Content: Introductory Question

What's your greatest
joy in gardening?

Modify for online:
"Type in Chat Box" →

Think. Pair. Share.

16

Online #1 Premise:

Do what you would do in person.

STOP
Go analog.
(and use props)

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES

17

If you film your programs...



Choose your teaching locations based on the subject.
Teamwork lecture @Ohio Stadium

18

And... vary your outfits (fit the topic)



19

On scripting...



20

Cementing Learning:

You can do this via Chat: Answer one of these questions in the Chat Box.



What are 3 points you learned?
What's definitely squared away?
What's still circling in your mind?

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Describe how you might use something you learned in the next week. **CFABES**

21

Homework:

- Go outside. Breathe. Imagine our Extension audiences returning to in-person programs soon.
- Watch other online instruction videos.
- Check out IT resources.
- Look for movie clips, TED talks, etc. to include for fun.
