

Faculty Matter Teaching Tip #40 - eCampus Pro-Tip #1 Using Canvas to Lead Engagement

The focus of this special eCampus Teaching Tip is to view how Canvas can be used to promote deeper engagement. As recently noted by George D. Kuh (2018) at the SJSU Student Success Symposium, student engagement is a trifecta of what students do, what institutions do, and the right activities. Through the development of meaningful activities, Canvas can be used to co-develop engagement.

What do we mean by *co-develop*? Engagement is a two-way street. In and of itself, the root “engage” carries as one of its definitions “to come together and interlock” (engage, 2018).

Within the classroom, engagement occurs on multiple levels: student:faculty, student:student, and student:content. Notice, student is in each relationship. As such, both student and teacher have the potential to harvest and increase engagement.

1. **Frequently check the [Canvas course analytics tool](#).** This feature allows you to track individual students progress, as well as it gives you a broad overview of how categories within your class as fairing. You can use this data to reach out to individual students or modify assignments to increase success or encourage further challenges.
2. **Connect with students to [provide reminders](#).** Through the Canvas gradebook, send messages to students to provide a reminder based on specific assignment categories: Haven't submitted yet, Haven't been graded, Scored less than [point value], and Scored more than [point value].
3. **Provide [varied feedback types](#).** Consider using the Canvas Media Recorder tool to provide audio and/or video feedback on assignments. Additional feedback options include annotating on the assignment, using a rubric, and providing text comments.
4. **Create a purpose and use that purpose to title or label [Canvas module headings](#).** This will generate action potential as well a concurrency between learning outcomes and what students visually see on the screen.
5. **Utilize the [Canvas ePortfolio](#) or [Portfolium](#) integration by having students keep a record of their reflections.** Use prompts within this archive to lead students to make clear connections between classroom and career.
6. **Instill group work by [creating student group spaces](#) where students can engage in discussions, share files, and connect virtually.** Through the group discussion feature, ask different questions of different groups and then compile and post the results, allowing students the opportunity to collaborate and celebrate.

And if you feel so inclined and have the time...

We encourage you to set-up an appointment with one of the eCampus Instructional Designers. Alongside tips and tricks on how to make Canvas work for you (rather than be a technological hurdle), we can assist you on building up best practices, moving higher on Bloom's Taxonomy, and reaching new heights in Quality Matters. This front-loading will ultimately streamline your courses, giving you more time to teach, engage and think

creatively. Student satisfaction normally increases as instructor satisfaction increases. We will show you how to:

- Use Speedgrader in ways that eliminate the tedious parts of grading and allow time for meaningful feedback.
- Pre-set announcements to release on specific dates, such that you can build in reminders to students for upcoming due dates.
- Integrate apps that enhance the learner's enjoyment of the course and promote richer retention of content matter.
- Incorporate publisher and library resources into your Canvas shell, so students can work with the resources in one location.

With more than 30,000 SJSU students and over 3,600 courses using Canvas this semester – leveraging the power of Canvas has never been so vital!

References

engage. 2018. In Merriam-Webster.com. Retrieved February 28, 2018, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/engage>.

Kuh, G. D. (2018, March). What matters to student success: The promise of high-impact practices. *SJSU Student Success Symposium*. Retrieved from http://www.sjsu.edu/studentssuccess/docs/Symposium_Kuh_2018.pdf