

Humanizing Your Online Teaching for Equity & Effectiveness

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PLEASE REFLECT ON YOUR LIFE. IDENTIFY ONE MEMORABLE TEACHER WHO POSITIVELY INFLUENCED YOU.

IN YOUR MIND, IDENTIFY TWO WORDS THAT DESCRIBE THAT PERSON.

SHARE THOSE TWO WORDS IN OUR MENTIMETER ACTIVITY.

- Click on the link in the Chat area OR
- Scan this QR code with your phone



View Results



FACULTY REFLECTIONS

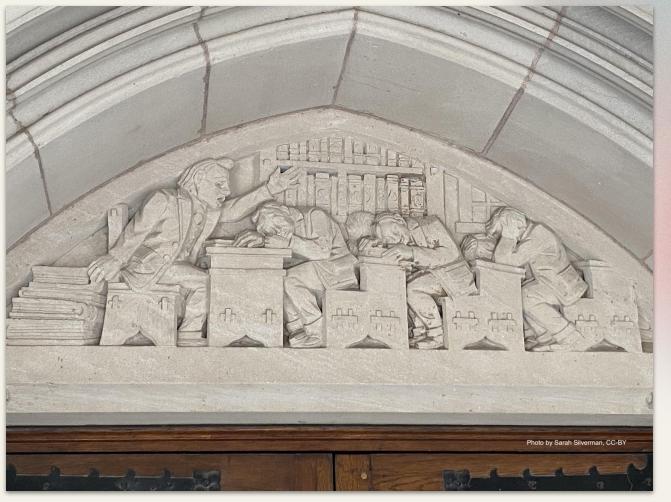
"As a younger female professor, I believed I needed to put on a tough outer shell in the classroom and uphold "rigid expectations" so that students wouldn't take advantage of my kindness/vulnerability. But what I've realized in the past year is that this was a terrible misconception I held onto for much too long."

Kerry Byrne, Environmental Science & Management, Humboldt State University After completing the Humanizing Online STEM Academy

FACULTY REFLECTIONS

"...I carried many traumas and pains from my own undergraduate STEM experience. ... It was not the course material that was challenging for me, it was the feeling of not being cared for and simply being a number on my ID card. I felt that I was a dollar commodity for the department and not a person. ... Now ... I have a deeper understanding of myself and how I can improve my own courses. ... In many ways, I have held myself back from my true nature and have tried to work within what I thought were the 'rigid expectations' for a professor. However, I now have a deeper understanding of how important emotions are in learning." (emphasis added)

Safa Khan, Chemistry, CSU Channel Islands
After completing the Humanizing Online STEM Academy



Yale Law School, sculptural frieze above entrance, Photo by Sarah Silverman, CC-BY.

When a flower doesn't bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower.

-Alexander den Heijer





"Belonging is not the same as fitting in."
-Brene Brown

Classroom studies document the fact that underserved English learners, poor students, and students of color routinely receive less instruction in higher order skills development than other students (Allington and McGill-Franzen, 1989; Darling-Hammond, 2001; Oakes, 2005). [This] denies students the opportunity to engage in what neuroscientists call productive struggle that actually grows our brain power (Means & Knapp, 1991; Ritchhart, 2002). As a result, a disproportionate number of culturally and linguistically diverse students are dependent learners.

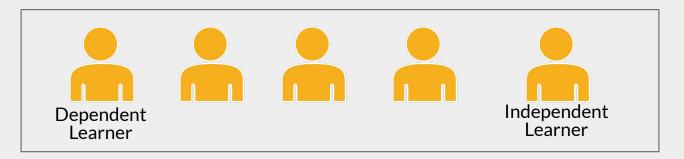
Zaretta Hammond, Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain, pp. 12-13.

Education is not neutral.

The Dependent Learner	The Independent Learner
 Unsure about how to tackle a new task Needs scaffolds to complete tasks Will sit passively and wait if stuck until the teacher intervenes 	 Possesses cognitive strategies for getting unstuck Attempts new tasks without scaffolds Has learned how to retrieve information from long-term memory

Hammond, Z. L. (2014). Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students. Corwin Publishers.

Warm Demander Pedagogy



- Starts with cultivating positive instructor-student relationships
- Relationships are leveraged to increase academic performance.
- Producing a high level of academic work becomes a reciprocal obligation between student and teacher
- Students push themselves beyond their perceived ability so they do not let their teacher down

Kleinfeld, J. (1972). Effective Teachers of Indian and Eskimo High School Students. Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research, University of Alaska Kleinfeld, J. (1975). Effective teachers of Eskimo and Indian students. School Review, 83, 301–344.

Hold All Students to High Standards



Positive Instructor-Student Relationship



TRUST

Kleinfeld, J. (1975); Rendón, L. (1994); Ladson-Billings, G. (2006); Hammond, Z. (2015); Wood, J. L., Harris III, F., White, K. (2015).

"Trust is taking something important to you and making it vulnerable to another person."

Charles Feltman















- Small things matter
- Microaffirmations are kindness cues of social inclusion.
- Like marbles in a jar, they accumulate over time.

Estrada, M., Eroy-Reveles, A., & Matsui, J. (2018). The influence of affirming kindness and community on broadening participation in STEM career pathways. *Social issues and policy review*, *12*(1), 258–297.

How & Why to Humanize Your Online Class infographic

brocansky.com/humanizing/infographic2

How & Why to HUMANIZE YOUR ONLINE CLASS

#HumanizeOL

version 2.0

What is humanizing?

Humaniting leverages learning science and culturally responsive teaching to create an inclusive, equitable online class climate for today's diverse students. When you teach online, it is easy to relate to your students simply as names on a screen. But your students are much more than that. They are capable, realilent humans who bring an array of perspectives and knowledge to your class. They also bring life experiences shaped by racism, poverty, and social marginalization. In humanized online courses, positive instructor student relationships are prioritized and serve "as the connective issue between students, engagement, and rigor" (Pacansky-Brock et al., 2020, p. 2). In any learning modality, human connection is the antidote for the emotional disruption that prevents many students from performing to their full potential and in online courses, creating that connection is even more important (Jaggars & Ma, 2016).



The Principles



Humanized online teaching is supported by four interwoven principles:

- Trust: As an instructor, it is your responsibility to intentionally cultiwhet student rust, at one way to do it is by practicing "selective vulnerability" (Planmond, 2014) in the online community you build with your learners. Choose to share aspects of your life that portray you as a real person - tell a story about a personal struggle you worked through or record a video while cooking dimer or walking your dog.
- Presence involves intentional efforts to construct your authentic self through brief, imperfect videos to ensure your students know you are in this journey with them (Costa, 2020). Verbal and nonverbal cues add context to your communications, which is important to support culturally diverse students.
- Awareness is achieved by learning about who your students are and how you can support them.
- Empathy requires you to slow down, see things through your students' eyes without judgment, be flexible, and support them towards their goals.

The Pedagogy

"Students who often feel invisible and unimportant" – they need to be 'seen' and valued by educators.

(Wood & Harris III, 2017, p. 41)

Research on men of color and first-generation students in community colleges has emphasized that "relationships before pedagogy" is a tenet of effective teaching (Palacios & Wood, 2015; Rendón, 1994; Wood & Harris III, 2015). Yet, when community college students learn online, they are less likely to experience rapport with their instructor and more likely to report needing to teach themselves (Jaggars & Xu. 2016). The lack of instructor-student relationships in many online courses exacerbates equity gaps. Humanizing intentionally cultivates a "welcomeness to engage" through trust, mutual respect, and authentic care (Wood & Harris III, 2015) before moving on to course content. Positive instructor-student relationships are leveraged to hold students to high standards, validate their effort and ability, and support them with achieving their goals. Students are more likely to lean in and apply themselves at a higher level when they know their instructor believes in them (Gay, 2000; Hammond, 2015; Ladson-Billings, 1994) and the same principles hold true in online courses (Glazier, 2016).



HIGH OPPORTUNITY ZONE

Week 1 Week 2 Week 3

warm demander pedagogy

Liquid Syllabus



Course Card & Humanized Homepage



Getting to Know You Survey



Self-affirming Ice Breaker



Wisdom Wall



Bumper Microlectures Videos







LIQUID SYLLABUS

Emailed to students the week before the class starts.

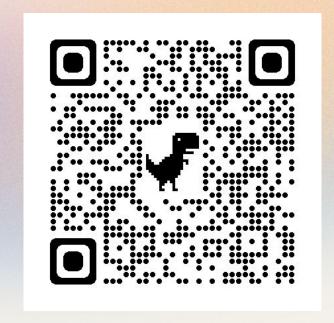
- A public webpage (Google Sites)
- Phone-friendly
- Accessible (alt-text, color contrast, headings/subheadings, lists)
- Components:
 - Written with welcoming, hopeful language
 - Welcome note with brief, imperfect video (with accurate captions)
 - Week 1 Success Kit
 - Pact
 - Teaching Philosophy
 - Inclusive images (with alt-text)
 - "Support for you"





LIQUID SYLLABUS

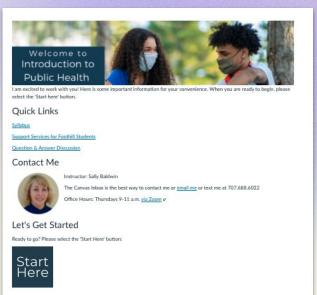
Emailed to students the week before the class starts.



View Michelle's Liquid Syllabus.

HUMANIZED HOMEPAGE

Welcoming banner (made with Canva) • minimal and relevant text, • friendly photo/video • "Start here" link







GETTING TO KNOW YOU SURVEY

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- What would you like me to call you?
- What are your pronouns?
- I will leave you feedback in video format. Does that work for you?
 - Yes, sounds great.
 - No, thanks. I prefer written feedback.
- In one word, describe how you are feeling about this class.
- Please share one thing that may interfere with your success in this class.

Sample survey available in the Canvas Commons. Search for #HumanizingSTEM



ADAPT YOUR TEACHING TO SUPPORT YOUR HIGH OPPORTUNITY STUDENTS

- Take notes
 - o <u>In Canvas, enable the Notes field</u> in the Grades area
- Jot down key things you learn about your students
 - Example: "Overwhelmed. Working extra hours to support parents."
- Track log-in dates and assignment submissions
- Reach out before it's too late. Be intrusive.
 - Use a subject line that signals care. Ex: Carla, are things ok on your end?

SELF-AFFIRMING ICE BREAKER

An intervention that mitigates stereotype threat by:

- Having students reflect on core personal values (Cohen et al., 2006, 2009; Martens et al., 2006; Miyake et al., 2010);
- Valuing students' individuality (Ambady et al., 2005; Gresky et al., 2005);
- Conveying that diversity is valued (Purdie-Vaughns et al., 2008);
 and
- Removing cues that suggest that college is a setting defined by a dominant majority group (Cheryan et al., 2009).

Tools: Flipgrid or VoiceThread



What is important to you?

Contributed by **Denise Maduli-Williams**

IN THE CHAT, SHARE ONE THING THAT IS RESONATING WITH YOU.



