

## CELT Teaching Tip for September 5, 2019

### Helping your students build connections

What are your students' passions and how do they relate to the topic that you teach? "Build Connections" is an activity that you can use after covering the first major topic of your course. Developed at the University of Virginia, the exercise helps students see how what they are learning is related to something that matters deeply to them. Details may change, but if students make school meaningful on a personal level, the material can have more relevance and (hopefully) better retention of the content.

As you introduce the activity, ask students to brainstorm things that are important to them. List them in section 1. Now, ask the students to think about topics they have learned in the present unit, and list them in section 2. Thinking about the possible connections, 3. draw a line between ideas in column 1 and column 2. Review the connections and summarize it in section 4 and consider why the topic is important to you in section 5.

It may be helpful for you to create your own "Build Connections" worksheet\*. You never know what new meaning you may find in the subject that you teach!

With a joy for teaching,

Sara Marcketti, Director

Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

\*Character Lab. (2018). Build Connections for Classrooms: Overview. Retrieved on September 3, 2019 from [https://characterlab.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2019/03/characterlab\\_buildconnections.pdf](https://characterlab.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2019/03/characterlab_buildconnections.pdf)

### Award-Winning Seminar Series: Top 10 ways to help freshmen learn Jodi Sterle, Associate Professor, Sept. 19 (12:10- 1p.m.)

What are your tips for the transition from high school to college? Professionalism, communication, regular attendance, respect--how can you help make these skills habitual? Award-winning associate professor Jodi Sterle, Animal Science, shares how she helps freshman adjust to learning in the 300+ large introductory class environment. Participants in this session will discuss tips and tricks and leave with an action plan to help our shiny, hopeful, newest students navigate their first semester. Learn more by visiting Jodi Sterle's website (<http://bit.ly/2Urxh97>). Register to attend via the Learn@ISU website (<http://learn.iastate.edu>).

### Designing online course content that matters

Quality Matter (QM)s, a non-profit course assurance organization, provides instructors with tools and processes to design online and blended courses in which all critical components work together to create intentional student-centered learning experiences for achieving the desired learning objectives. QM uses a research-based rubric and a rigorous peer review for improving online and blended courses. Discover the QM fundamentals in the collaborative and interactive face-to-face workshops facilitated by CELT.

#### Register for an Upcoming Workshop: Applying the Quality Matters (QM) Rubric (APPQMR)

To help you to begin CELT offers the Workshop: Applying the Quality Matters (QM) Rubric (APPQMR). Register via the Learn@ISU website (<http://learn.iastate.edu>) or email [celt@iastate.edu](mailto:celt@iastate.edu) to attend one of the following program offerings:

- Oct. 10 (9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- Dec. 4 (9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

Additionally, you may register (with a fee paid by yourself/department) for the online offering, read more on QM's Applying the Quality Matters Rubric (APPQMR) webpage (<http://bit.ly/2Ut1ULf>).

**Questions?** Contact Lesya Hassall at [lesya@iastate.edu](mailto:lesya@iastate.edu) or call 515-294-5357.

## CELT Collaborator Spotlight: Lisa Lund

In this year's teaching tips, we will be highlighting collaborators from across Iowa State University. We have asked them to share Canvas tips that everyone might use, an innovative way they've helped faculty integrate technology into a course, and their most frequently utilized CELT resource.

Lisa Lund, M.Ed. and instructional development coordinator at the College of Veterinary Medicine, has developed hundreds of courses at ISU. She recently presented at the most recent ISU Online Learning Community seminar some tips for creating effective content in Canvas:

Focus on your ABCs to create a professional, engaging space for your students — Accessibility, Branding, Character.

- **Accessibility:** Keep your design simple and “clean”. Use the same font throughout your course, label files with descriptive names, group related items together in modules, and arrange modules in chronological order. Helpful web tools to evaluate accessibility of colors include:
  - Spectrum (Chrome Extension) (<http://bit.ly/2Uq7LRE>),
  - ColorBrewer (<http://bit.ly/2UxD656>), and
  - Canvas Accessibility Checker (<http://bit.ly/2Uq7Pkm>).
- **Branding:** Use the ISU's color palette webpage (<http://bit.ly/isu-colors>) to easily coordinate colors, keeping your course design consistent and identifiable as part of Iowa State University. You can display a picture on a course tile on the Dashboard, learn how via the How do I add an image to a course card in the Dashboard? web guide (<http://bit.ly/2UoSP6o>).
- **Character:** This is where you can let your personality and ideas shine. Create a professional banner using one of these websites: Pexels (<https://pexels.com/>), Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/>), Flickr in Canvas (<http://bit.ly/2UvaRUG>) or Canva (<https://canva.com/>). You can create buttons for your pages to help students more quickly access specific content from Da Button Factory website (<https://dabuttonfactory.com/>).

Lisa shared that her most frequently used CELT resource was MyCanvas Teacher at ISU website (<http://bit.ly/mycanvasteacher>) because it's a very useful tool. It has great step-by-step Canvas instructions for frequently used tools such as Global Course Administration and ISU AdminTools, making it a vital tool for Canvas success at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

## Learning Online: Canvas and Beyond

### Using Studio to help students make connections

Find Studio, a built-in video platform, on your global navigation in Canvas. Use Studio to create welcome messages on your course homepage or as an introduction to a discussion topic, modeling the format students should follow when posting their own video response. Here are a few more innovative ways ISU is using Studio to help students make connections:

- **Presentations** — Sonya Nichols, Kyle Solberg, and other team members at Engineering-LAS Online Learning share that they have been working to find easier, better solutions for student presentations that integrate with Canvas. The team supports live-capture courses — live, face-to-face course sections that are recorded concurrently and delivered to an asynchronous online section. This makes in-person presentations a challenge for online students. Canvas Studio provides an intuitive option that completely integrates with Canvas assignments and discussion boards. With Canvas Studio, students can pre-record their presentation, then post to a discussion board, post to CyBox to play in the classroom or submit as an assignment.
- **Announcements** — Racheal Ruble, Associate Teaching Professor in Psychology, frequently creates videos using Studio in Canvas to send them via her course announcements for different purposes, such as:
  - To give feedback to all students, much like she does in her face-to-face classes;
  - To communicate course expectations;
  - To share assignment examples;
  - To connect the subject matter to student lives.

Announcements are opportunities to communicate what is important: Racheal does not sweat making small mistakes and does not heavily edit or second-guess her content. It's not about a video being professionally made; it's about connecting with her students.

- You also can use Studio to create welcome messages on your course homepage or as an introduction to a discussion topic, modeling the format students should follow when posting their own video response.

**Do you have an idea for using Studio to enhance your course?**

Stop by one of our Canvas Open Labs for a consultation or learn more from the Canvas Guides: Studio webpage (<http://bit.ly/canvas-studio>).

**Canvas Open Labs**

Looking for pedagogical advice or Canvas know-how? CELT staff will host Canvas Open Labs on the 3rd floor of Morrill Hall. View the days/times on CELT's Canvas Open Labs webpage (<http://bit.ly/canvas-open-lab>). No appointment required; bring your questions and your laptop. From September 3-December 12 we will host labs on the following days/times:

- Tuesdays (1-3 p.m.)
- Wednesdays (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)
- Thursdays (9-11 a.m.)

**24/7 Canvas Support Usage is Up**

You asked for 24/7 Canvas Support and you use it. Canvas reports that they resolved 544 support tickets from Aug. 18-30. Over 50% of the support was completed using the Live Chat feature. This is a 24/7 service we have contracted to better serve you; access these available options in Canvas by using the **? Help** icon on the Global Navigation menu (far left of your screen):

- Canvas Support Line (Call 515-294-4000 then press 2, press 1)
- Live Chat with Canvas Support
- A web-based Report a Problem Form

**Professional Development Opportunities****The University Honors Program seeks proposals for spring 2020 Honors seminars**

These one- or two-credit courses explore various topics of current or special interest. Seminars are pass/not pass, with enrollment usually limited to 17 students. A grant of \$500 per seminar supports the professional development of the instructor(s). More information, about seminars as well as guidelines for teaching one, is available on the Honors Faculty & Advisers webpage (<http://bit.ly/2UocovE>). Proposals are due Friday, Sept. 20; the proposal submission form webpage (<http://bit.ly/2UoU6dG>). Questions may be directed to Honors director Laurie Law ([lfiiegel@iastate.edu](mailto:lfiiegel@iastate.edu)).

**Discover the 10 Ways to Thrive in the Academy**

Iowa State University is an institutional member of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD). The NCFDD's Core Curriculum is designed to teach you the 10 key skills necessary to Thrive in the Academy. Claim your membership by going to ISU's NCFDD Institutional page (<http://bit.ly/isu-ncfdd>) and click on the "Activate My Membership" button. Questions about ISU's NCFDD membership? email Katharine Hensley. Technical questions? email [Support@FacultyDiversity.org](mailto:Support@FacultyDiversity.org).

**CELT's August-September Workshops**

To view our program descriptions and our most up-to-date schedule, visit CELT's Event and Registration webpage (<http://bit.ly/celtevents>):

- Seminar, Discuss Published Education Research in Your Discipline, Sept. 9 (4:10-5 p.m.)
- Inclusive Classroom Workshop, Sept. 12 (2:10-5 p.m.)
- Seminar, ISU Online Learning Community (ISU-OLC), Sept. 13 (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.)
- Award-winning Seminar Series: Top 10 Ways to Help Freshmen Learn, Sept 19 (12:10-1 p.m.)
- Workshop, Engagement Strategies for Every Classroom, Sept. 23 (2:10-3:00 p.m.)
- Seminar, Service-Learning Teaching and Learning Community, Sept. 25 (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.)
- Seminar, Team-Based Learning Teaching and Learning Community, Sept. 27 (1:10-2:30 p.m.)

**How to Register**

For in-person events, register via the Learn@ISU website (<http://learn.iastate.edu>), or email your name, department, name of the event, date of the event to [celt@iastate.edu](mailto:celt@iastate.edu). Many of our workshops are available in-person and/or online via Zoom. If it's offered online via Zoom, registration will be a part of the ISU Event Calendar entry.