Classroom Interaction Guidelines

Building a welcoming and inclusive community environment in a class is important and essential work. But this work becomes even more crucial, and sometimes more challenging, for classes happening online. The following resources can help you think through your expectations for classroom interactions and how you hope to structure those interactions.

# Guiding Questions to Consider

1. How will your students be interacting and engaging with you and with one another? Discussion boards, video posts, breakout rooms, all-class discussions, etc.
2. For each method or tool, think about what your expectations are for engagement. How would you like students to use these tools? What does successful, meaningful, and impactful engagement look like?
3. Would a student possibly have trouble using your method or tool for interaction and engagement? Think through any accessibility issues or needs.
4. How will you handle situations where engagement goes awry?
5. For example, if you are dealing with difficult or sensitive topics, how will you create a safe space for discussion? Or, if students are not engaged during a Zoom session, how will you address the issue?
6. Finally, and most importantly, how will you involve students in the work of building community and establishing structure and expectations around engagement and interactions?

# Resources

Look through these resources for more ideas!

### Mozilla Foundation Community Participation Guidelines

<https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/about/governance/policies/participation/>

This open source resource can be adapted for your own classroom needs and includes language around inclusive and respectful community interactions.

### University of Michigan Guidelines for Classroom Interactions

<http://crlt.umich.edu/examples-discussion-guidelines>

This guide includes prompting questions to help you consider your unique classroom situation and determine what sort of structure, guidelines, and expectations would best suit your course.

### Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship Inclusive Pedagogy

<https://cndls.georgetown.edu/inclusive-pedagogy/>

This portal includes resources on inclusive pedagogy that can provide ideas and inspiration as you consider your own class structure and community interactions.