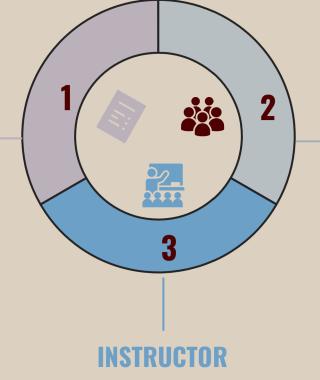


TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY Center for Teaching Excellence

Motivating student engagement with **content, peers, and instructor** helps to **increase collaboration in an online course**. These methods seek to ease the feeling of isolation and connect students to central parts of the course. **Dr. Diane Chico** (Instructional Professor, Medical Education) has implemented collaboration in a laboratory histology course that resulted in student gains.

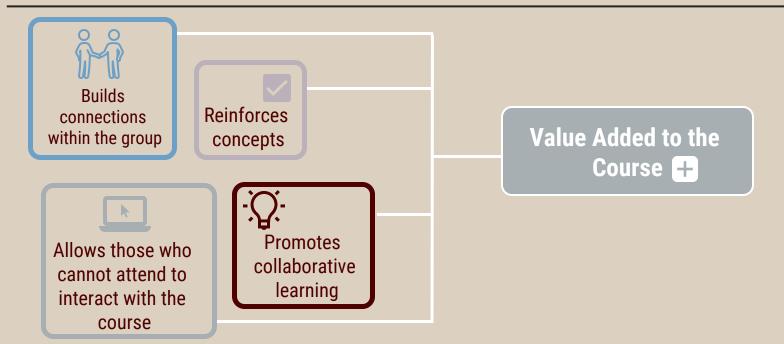
CONTENT Interactive Lab Manual

Instructors can **convert course notes, laboratory manuals, study guides, and outlines to an interactive format using Adobe Articulate**. This interactive document can then be posted to the Learning Management System (Canvas) for students to view and explore content. Consider seeking **assistance from academic technology staff** to implement this method.



Synchronous Zoom

Incorporate synchronous Zoom as an alternative format for students and/ or faculty that were not able to attend the live session. It is important to make Zoom links ahead of class time and have them available to students from the start of the course. In a hybrid laboratory course utilizing this method, there were no traces of exposure linked to the class. Maintaining appropriate distances creates a reduced risk environment and students and faculty.





Stimulate peer collaboration and interaction across the course. Modular, randomized group assignments and group quizzes promote peer teaching and support an active learning environment. This encourages students to enhance their own depth of knowledge while discussing with others.

End of course evaluations indicate that students benefited from the enhancement of collaboration through facilitation of engagement with content, peer, and instructor.

Future course offerings will continue to utilize the framework of interactive notes, peer teaching, and alternative formats of sessions.

