

Best Practices for Teaching Online: Content Specific

Science

- I use the whiteboard tool on Zoom and record myself explaining responses to students. I also try to link in a video that has someone else explaining it too. There are great websites that already have excellent science content created. Then I ask kids open-ended questions to get them to engage and respond.
- Embed online labs or videos demonstrating what you would typically do in the lab. Even though the Regents exams have now been cancelled, it does not mean that the lab experience is not important.

Business

- For Accounting (and other business subjects) that students don't have previous knowledge, offer specific links to resources where they can find supplemental, additional, or enrichment content. This will act like lectures in your classroom and assist in the learning process as well as calm their nerves.

Mathematics

- For Consumer Math, I copy and paste the answers into the dropbox/comment grading area so students know exactly where they made a mistake instead of trying to explain "you added wrong" -- be specific in your comments so students' questions are answered before they ask them.
- Math notation is a challenge. I like the Google Docs equation editor. It is easy to use, but certainly not as powerful as others out there. But I can make a Google Doc with answers. Also, I can take pictures of my own scribbles if that helps.
- For office hours-type situations, it is much easier if they ask their questions ahead of time. Figuring out notation or taking live-action shots of you working out problems is not a great idea.
- You may need to be creative if you need to write on-line quizzes. The notation is a pain. In some systems, fill-in-the-blank questions work. You may need to have students round to make the auto quiz graders work. You may need to relax

your expectations for things like exact answers and go with decimal approximations. Or go with multiple choice.

Social Studies

- Since a teacher will not be able to answer questions, content or procedural, directions/expectations need to be very specific. Make sure kids have the historical or otherwise background knowledge and understanding that is required to complete the assignment and gain the desired learning. You can provide students with access to background knowledge through online or secondary sources or provide it yourself within the confines of the assignment.

World Languages

- Take this opportunity to explore the culture of users of the target language. How is the coronavirus impacting the daily life, work, celebrations, music, theater, etc of that group?
- Discuss with students the need non-English speakers and Deaf people have for information right now. Do they have equal access? What is missing (eg. interpreters, Spanish subtitles, etc.)?
- Teach them to be savvy consumers of online dictionaries and use of the language on social media. Why is it better to use Spanishdictionary.com than Google translate? There are lots of people on YouTube signing songs. Is it ASL? How do you know it is a good interpretation?
- Work on receptive skills. You can make videos/audio recordings and post them with questions and there are also lots of "storytellers" out there right now providing stories of varying length and difficulty for parents and teachers.
- Make sure you proofread/test out online quizzes, such as Kahoot, Quizizz, Quizlet, Gimkit, etc to make sure the vocabulary is accurate and consistent with what you are teaching.
- Pick out the essential learning and provide it in small chunks. Achievable tasks that have clear directions will boost confidence and increase the odds that they continue to do the work.
- Take advantage of Quizlet and Study Stack websites for vocabulary reinforcement: Besides the games and "tests," students can hear the correct pronunciations as they use the online flashcards

- If you have used Kahoot! In your classroom, it can be done from home: Set up the game as an at-home challenge, set a deadline for students to play, and Kahoot will keep track/save a report to track student results
- Flip Grid is a great online platform to have students practice/submit speaking
- Take advantage of YouTube videos for culture as well as vocabulary
- When asking students to write in the target language, MODEL what you expect from them: Provide sample answers to questions you want them to answer, sample sentences to demonstrate what their own writing should look like.
- Try to mix it up. Find short videos, audio files, reading material, etc. Don't just give written work or reading work. Be creative. Host a Quizlet Live game or assign a Kahoot for students to do on their own. Use EdPuzzle or other sites to mix up student learning. Use this time to teach them about all of the cultural things that you always wanted to teach but didn't have time to, especially now that the Regents is cancelled!