STUDENT-TO-STUDENT COMMUNICATION

DESCRIPTION
Student-to-student communication is the second of Chickering and Ehrmann’s Seven Principles of Good Practice. This journal article can be found in this card’s reference section on the back. It is a set of time and research tested instructional strategies first proposed in 1987.

This principle highlights the importance of students communicating and working together. In traditional classrooms, students talk before class, in break-out groups, and group project meetings. To foster a similar degree of interaction, students should be encouraged to talk one-on-one and in groups using email, chat tools, discussions, or video conferences.

A common fear among students is that distance learning courses will lack a sensing of community. Help your students learn how to use the communication tools in D2L, and encourage them to share ideas both on course subject matter and discussing material not related to the course.

WHY
Here are a few ways that Student-Student Communication will benefit your students:

- It allows students to solidify learned concepts. When students discuss ideas they retain knowledge. Creating a shared experience of learning. When students help each other intellectually and emotionally, challenging material is overcome.
- It provides a source of feedback on their work other than the instructor’s.
- It prepares students for the workplace by fostering small group environments.

MORE INFORMATION

Seven Principles Collection of TLT Ideas
- The link below contains problem solving information concerning student-student communication in online courses.
- URL: http://www.tltgroup.org/Seven/2_Stu-Stu_Cooperation.htm

Strategies for Effective Student/Student Interaction in Online Courses
- The link below lists several strategies and scenarios related to student-student communication in a distant learning course.

Working in Teams
- The link below provides roles that student may assign to each other. Also included are conflict resolution samples that apply to distance learning courses.
- URL: http://terrymorris.net/teamwork/meeting.htm
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