

TIPS FOR AN EQUITABLE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Creating an equitable virtual classroom requires an intersectional understanding of the fact that classrooms are sites where inequalities can be exacerbated. Due to COVID-19, many educators have had to shift their teaching into virtual spaces. Here are some tips for maintaining an equitable virtual classroom.

Research has shown that in online classrooms instructors are less likely to respond to comments made by students of color than other students. Be conscious of racial bias as you transition into a digital classroom space.

Remember that your students may have health conditions that may have not been visible in an in-person classroom. Ex: Some students may experience migraines or eye strain from prolonged exposure to computers/screens.

Some of your LGBTQ+ students may not be out at home, and they may want to use different pronouns/names than they do on campus.

Keep in mind that a dramatic change in the learning environment will result in different responses from students. Actively remind students of academic support resources.

For some students, engaging in conversations that deal with culturally or politically sensitive topics may be more difficult when around family members.

Your students may have significant new responsibilities due to COVID-19, such as caring for children/siblings, working additional part-time/full-time jobs, or caring for sick family members.

Because we know that students have uneven access to wifi, continue to share these [resources](#) with your students for getting free or reduced rate wifi.

Continue to support LGBTQ+ students. Some of them may have returned to environments that are not supportive and no longer have direct access to a safe and supportive community.

Acknowledge that some students may have returned to an environment where they are now housed with or are in close proximity to an abuser.

Continue to ground your teaching in social justice by actively addressing discrimination surrounding COVID-19.

ADDITIONAL READING:

- "Accessible Teaching in the time of COVID-19" - Aimi Hamraie - 3.10.20 - [LINK](#)
- "Teaching Through Coronavirus: What Educators Need Right Now"- Cory Collins - 3.19.20 - [LINK](#)
- "How Will COVID-19 Affect Equity in Education?" - Janice Arellano - 3.23.20 - [LINK](#)

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