

TIPS FOR KEEPING DISTRACTED STUDENTS ENGAGED IN THE ONLINE CLASSROOM

1. Keep the lessons as interactive as possible, and be explicit about what kinds of interactions you expect for each activity

- At the beginning of each session encourage students to tune-in and participate via a “Check In” with the class
- Be explicit about when and how you want students to participate.

2. Use visual aids to help keep students attention on the screen and the task at hand

- If students are working on an asynchronous assignment, have a timer easily visible on the screen so that they can see how much time remains on the task at hand
- During timed assignments, periodically come off mute to announce time remaining
- Use annotation tools and active participation tools to create a dynamic screen.

3. Maintain structure as much as possible, and make it easy for students to find and refer to written rules, expectations, and deadlines

- Post assignments with clear due dates and times in one, easy to find, place so that students can refer back to them as needed
- Before, or at the start of class, share an outline of the session’s activities.

4. Sometimes, it’s best to allow students to work with some minor distractions, to help avoid larger disruptive distractions

- Encourage students to focus by disconnecting from other distractions
- Acknowledge a healthy dose of distraction.

5. Just because classes are all online, doesn’t mean all note taking and assignments need to be on a screen

- Encourage students to take notes on paper if they find it difficult to type and listen
- When feasible, allow students to complete assignments by hand instead of online.