

## Delivering an Effective and Engaging Online Course

### “Stupid” Online Tips and Tricks



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On March 20<sup>th</sup>, UNT Dallas’ Game Changers, our first online instructors, were honored. During the celebration, they shared tips for delivering an effective and engaging online educational experience. Below you will find 5 of the fifteen tips they shared.

The majority of their 15 tips are related to Teaching Presence. Teaching Presence is one of the three elements in the Community of Inquiry (CoI) framework. The CoI framework defines the online educational experience using three elements – teaching presence, social presence, and, cognitive presence.

#### Teaching Presence

(Activities related to instructional design, facilitation, and direct instruction)

- 1) When grading or teaching during the semester, open more than one tab in your browser to reduce the back and forth of changing screens to conduct different processes.
- 2) When designing your discussion board, change the setting for ‘Show participants in needs grading status’ and the number of posts required to show participants in needs grading status to an appropriate number.
- 3) Download test banks from text book publishers and adjust questions as needed.
- 4) To manage access to exam answers, don’t make questions and answers available till a pre-defined time. The pre-defined time should be a few days after the exam due date. Set the availability period and option when designing the text.
- 5) To reduce the likelihood of cheating, do one or more of the following
  - When creating exams, create a pool of questions so that all students get different set of questions.
  - Require all exams be proctored. There are testing centers and remote proctoring companies who provide this service to students for a fee.
  - Set a time limit on exam. For the easiest questions, it will take students approximately 30 seconds to answer the question.
  - Design exams to be open book
  - Weigh online quizzes low on your grading policy