## Strategies to Strengthen Online Course Instruction

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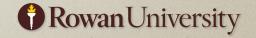
## Where is Online Learning Going?

- 66% of Higher Ed Inst say that online learning is part of their long-term strategy [1]
- 60%+ will offer at least 1 online program [2]
- 90% will offer at least 1 online course
- So, what's NEXT?
  - Focus on pedagogy
  - Seek to improve student engagement



## **Engaging Opportunities**

- GOAL: Enhance your student-centered learning
- STRATEGIES (by example):
  - Collaboration Assignment
  - Casual "Twitter-Style" Discussion
  - -The "a la carte" course



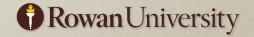
# Collaboration Assignment

#### Strategy

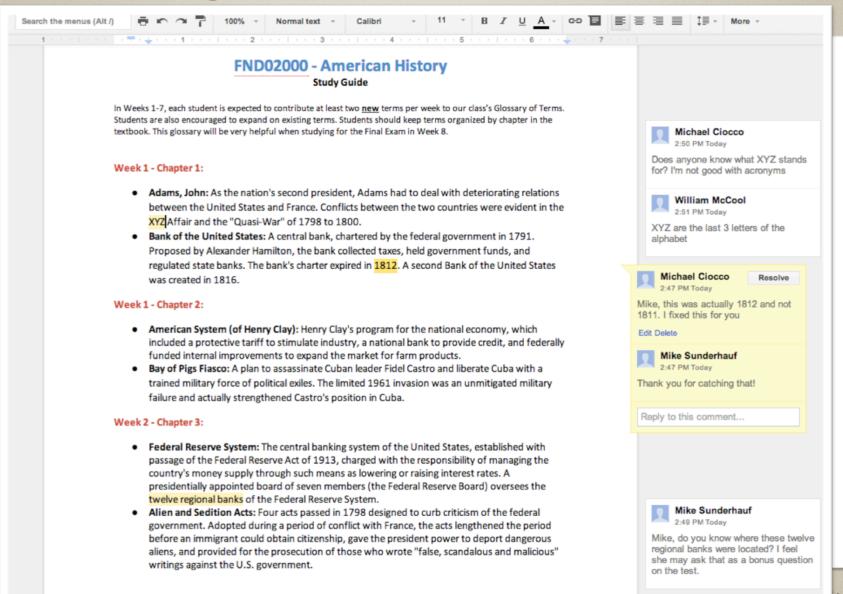
- Create a collaborative workspace for the class or groups
- Students choose content focal points
- Students critique each other's choices
- The instructor is merely a 'referee' as needed.

### Examples

- Course Glossary
- Course Study Guide
- Course Timeline
- Keys to Success
  - Delivery medium must be fast and easy to use



# Ex. Google Doc Collaboration



## "Twitter-Style" Discussion

#### Strategy

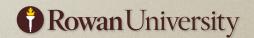
- Simulate informal, chronological classroom discussion
- Discussion is NOT threaded
- Posts are limited to approx 140 characters (35 words or less)
- Possibly limit # of posts per user
- Discussion is born of lecture or other content

#### Examples

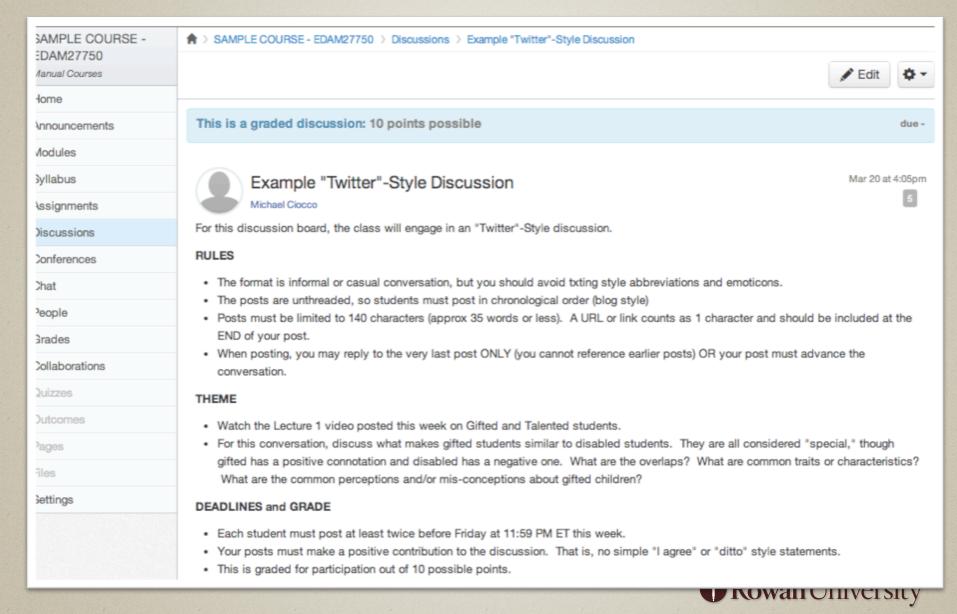
- Question or debate posted in lecture
- Respond to question about film clip
- Ice-breaker discussion

#### Keys to Success

- Conversation is casual
- Students learn to be concise
- Stress that each post either replies to most recent post, or advances the topic



# Ex. Twitter-Style Discussion



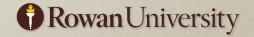
### The "a la carte" course

### Strategy

- Customize class content so that students can skip or test out
- Not off the hook! Those who skip support those who do not
- Offer collaboration space

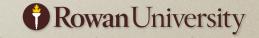
### Keys to Success

- Students who skip content are graded on their collaboration & support of other students
- Consider a "buddy" system to enforce collaboration



### More ideas...

- Peer Review
- Webinar/Conferences
  - Google Hangouts, Join.me, Adobe Connect
  - Guest speaker, presentations, group work...
- Video only discussion
- Office Hours chat session
- Flipped Online Classroom



### References

- 1. Allen, I. Elaine and Jeff Seamen. *Grade Change: Tracking Online Education in the United States, 2013*. Babson Survey Research Group and Quahog Research Group, LLC. The Sloan Consortium. January 2014.
- Calkins, Andrew and Kristen Vogt. Next Generation Learning: The Pathway to Possibility. Educause. April 2013.
- 3. Online Higher Education Moving From Ordinary to Extraordinary: A Position Paper on Online Pedagogy Innovation. Eduventures. Summer 2013.
- 4. Vai, Marjorie, and Kristen Sosulski. *Essentials of Online Course Design: A Standards-Based Guide*. January 2011.

