ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY IN ONLINE TEACHING

• PROFESSOR BUZZ SCHERR
• UNH SCHOOL OF LAW
• ALBERT.SCHERR@LAW.UNH.EDU
Good online teaching is *not* about transferring your residential course into the online space.

It *is* about learning the tools available to you for online teaching that allow you to create an effective learning environment in the online space.

Two of the core challenges to creating a good learning environment are: (1) actively engaging students and (2) building a sense of community in the virtual classroom.
The peril of distraction:
Some ideas

• Discussion boards with prompts and cautious monitoring

• Online quizzes that operate as self-tutorials

• Optional or mandatory Zoom conversations about the quizzes.

• Aggressive in-class use of back-and-forth with and between students.

• Mix it up every 15 - 20 minutes as the Zoom experience is prone to external distractions
Importance of intentional building of a sense of community in the online space

**Some Tools**

1. Small-group function in Zoom
2. Student panels during class
3. Silly contests: Zoom background contest.
Practice, practice, practice

Thinking through and achieving good online teaching will make you a better teacher residentially.

Please reach out if you have questions or problems that need solving: albert.scherr@law.unh.edu