Five Principles That Make Online Courses Come Alive

Online courses have become increasingly popular in recent years, as they offer a flexible and convenient way to learn new skills and knowledge. However, not all online courses are created equal. Some are engaging and effective, while others are boring and ineffective.



Active Learning Online: Five Principles that Make Online Courses Come Alive by Stephen M. Kosslyn

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What makes the difference between a great online course and a bad one? It all comes down to the design of the course.

In this article, we will discuss five principles that can help you create online courses that come alive.

1. Start with a clear learning objective

The first step in designing an online course is to identify the learning objectives. What do you want your students to learn by the end of the course? Once you know your learning objectives, you can start to develop your course content.

Your learning objectives should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. For example, instead of saying "I want my students to learn about marketing," you could say "By the end of this course, my students will be able to identify the four Ps of marketing and develop a marketing plan for a new product."

2. Use a variety of learning activities

One of the biggest mistakes that online course designers make is relying too heavily on text. Students learn best when they are engaged in a variety of learning activities, such as:

- Reading
- Watching videos
- Listening to audio recordings
- Completing interactive exercises
- Participating in discussions
- Working on projects

By using a variety of learning activities, you can keep your students engaged and motivated throughout the course.

3. Provide opportunities for feedback

Feedback is essential for learning. It helps students to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and to make progress towards their learning goals.

There are many different ways to provide feedback to students, such as:

- Grading assignments
- Providing written comments
- Recording audio or video feedback
- Participating in discussions

By providing regular feedback, you can help your students to stay on track and to achieve their learning goals.

4. Create a community of learners

One of the best ways to make an online course come alive is to create a community of learners. This can be done by:

- Setting up discussion forums
- Hosting live webinars
- Encouraging students to connect with each other on social media

By creating a community of learners, you can provide your students with a sense of belonging and support. This can help them to stay motivated and engaged throughout the course.

5. Use technology to enhance the learning experience

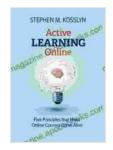
Technology can be a powerful tool for enhancing the learning experience. However, it is important to use technology wisely.

Here are a few tips for using technology to enhance the learning experience:

- Use technology to create interactive learning activities.
- Use technology to provide feedback to students.
- Use technology to create a community of learners.

By using technology wisely, you can create an online course that is both engaging and effective.

Creating an online course that comes alive is not easy, but it is possible. By following the five principles discussed in this article



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