

## **Strategies for Using Technology and Collaboration to Engage Students**

Scott Moore, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Business

### ***Use class time for doing and interacting, not sitting and listening***

- Use class time wisely; it is the most valuable time instructors have.
- Keep lectures to a minimum and have students work on specific tasks.
- Use class time to help students develop critical problem-solving skills.
- Make yourself available to help students with their specific questions and difficulties.

### ***Use class technology (especially wikis and blogs) to support collaboration and sharing***

- Create a wiki for a class website so that students and the instructor can be co-authors of and contribute information to the site.
- Use the wiki to facilitate communication between instructor and students (and among students) through announcements, exercises, and information sharing.
- Have a different student each day write and post notes related to the day's in-class activities. Encourage students to update or change the notes in the wiki.
- Assign one student per class session to generate and post test questions based on the material covered in class; students can view and edit these questions on the wiki.
- Encourage students to post blog entries regularly to share information—with students and with you—about interesting sites and tools, technical tips, data collection, etc.

### ***Teach students to think like scientists***

- Incorporate a process of discovery throughout the semester.
- Use assignments as an opportunity for students to practice scientific thinking (gathering, analyzing, evaluating, and summarizing data) and learn something new.
- Use in-class time to practice process of data analysis.
- Give students the opportunity to share/publish results (e.g., on the website).

### ***Give students the opportunity to work on assignments that are personally meaningful***

- Allow students to choose their own topics. This enhances student buy-in and intrinsic motivation to work on the project and think deeply about the subject.
- Encourage students to collaborate and help each other with technical details, assignment clarification, etc.

### ***Allow (and encourage) students to teach one another... and you***

- Create opportunities for them to develop the skills needed for teaching (e.g., reflecting on what they know and don't know, thinking about how to communicate new information effectively).
- Use projects as structured teaching opportunities where students take on the role of a topical expert who must inform colleagues about their topic.
- Have students use blogs and wikis to share and reflect on information related to class topics.
- Encourage students to teach and help each other outside of class.

### ***Trust students to come to class (or not)***

- Carefully consider the value you add to make students *want* to come to class. Students will attend class if they find it a worthwhile use of time.
- Consider putting **everything** on the Web (all announcements, assignments, and notes).

### ***Provide many opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning***

- Incorporate lots of analysis and writing and involve students in the grading process.
- Invite students to apply their learning to their interests to maintain a high quality of effort.