

Connections are the Foundation of the Classroom

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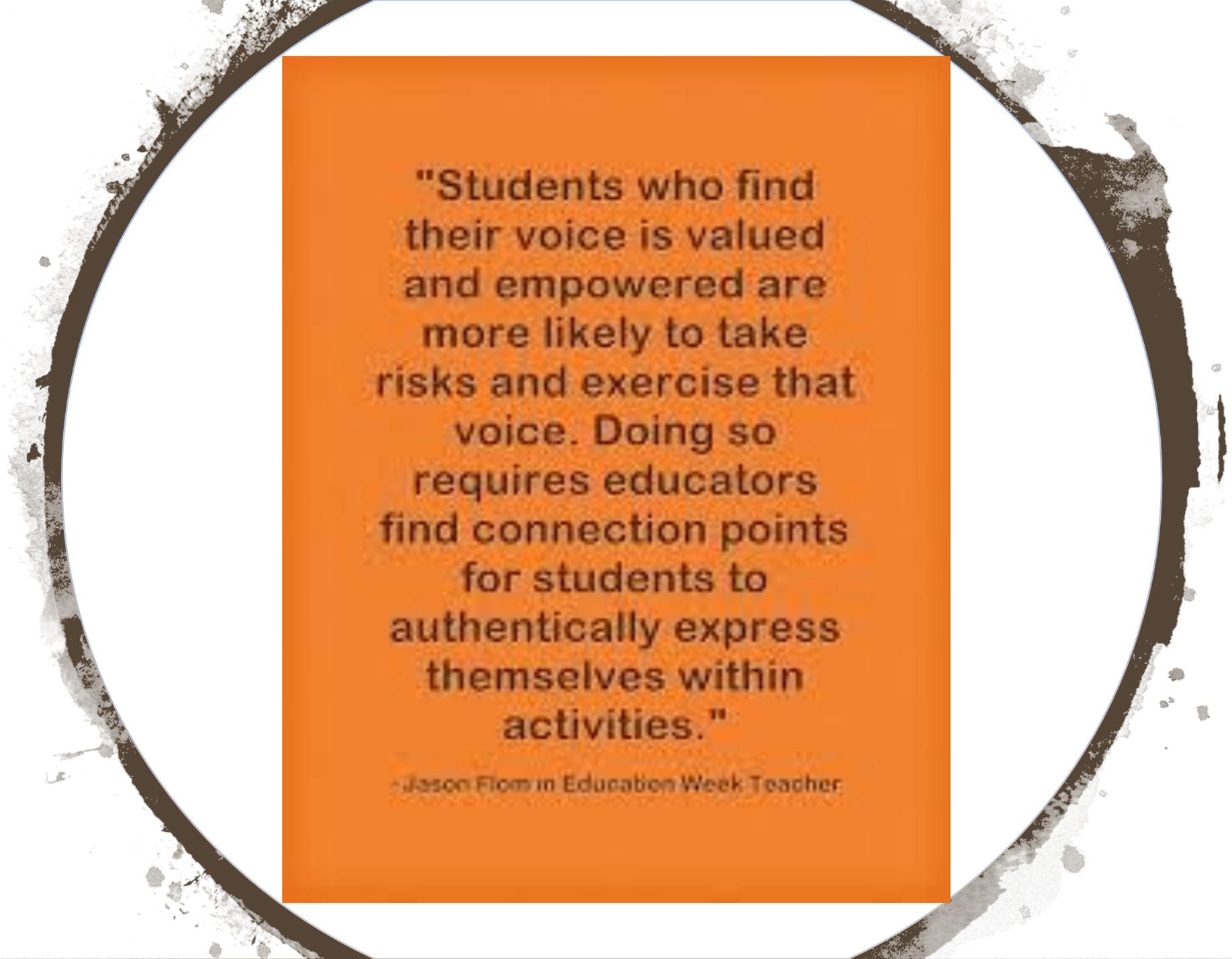
BA, MS Mathematics

“Great teachers focus not on compliance but on
connections and relationships.”

PJ Crapsey

During this presentation we will

- Share tools to use to create a positive environment to motivate the students
- Share a variety of communication methods - leads to student success



"Students who find their voice is valued and empowered are more likely to take risks and exercise that voice. Doing so requires educators find connection points for students to authentically express themselves within activities."

-Jason Flom in Education Week Teacher

Introduce Yourself

Regardless if you are in an online environment or on ground class students want to know who you are

- Post a biography
- Create a google form to survey students to find out more about themselves, maybe add in questions like what do you want to learn, what are your expectations of me, what are your expectations of yourself, describe yourself, what will your life be like in 10 years
- [Sample Google Form](#)





Share your
own
experience- be
human

- Share with your students a time when you struggled in a class or were overwhelmed and how did you handle it
- When we share our own failures it makes us human to our students
- No need to be on a pedestal – pull up a chair and sit beside them and help them along the way
- This is a journey you are on together!

Virtual tour of the classroom

Creating a virtual tour of your online classroom helps students to relieve some of their anxiety

Create a screen share of you logging into your class

Share such things as

- where to find assignments
- how to find the gradebook
- where to find help
- how to access seminar

What does good look like

For the assignments that you have share examples of what good and even great looks like

Students are more successful when they know what the expectations are

Sharing examples gives them a tangible resources so they can “see” what they need to be turning in

How can
they reach
you

Share with your students all the ways that you are accessible

Maybe it is email only but share your email address all the time so that they have it

If you are willing to share your phone number, write it down for them

Maybe even create an email or announcement that says In Case of Emergency in this course you can contact me at ...

Time in beginning is time well spent

Many times instructors want to just jump in and get started with their material but if you spend time in the beginning nurturing your class, paying attention to interpersonal details - you are creating the foundation for the rest of the term



Theodore Roosevelt

Discussion Boards

Discussion Boards are a great place to connect with your students and learn more about them

Use the discussion area to not only address the question at hand but as a means of getting to know who your students are and what is important to them

All for one and one for all

- Create a team/family environment in your class
- When students see that everyone has a common goal – to pass the course – they can rely on one another for support and encouragement
- Also when students help classmates it raises their own level of understanding, when you can explain a concept to someone else it means that you have a deeper level of understanding yourself

Emails

Motivate

Send motivational emails – pump them up, remind them why they are taking this class, what are their goals and dreams, be real with them about the struggles of time management, etc.

Kudos

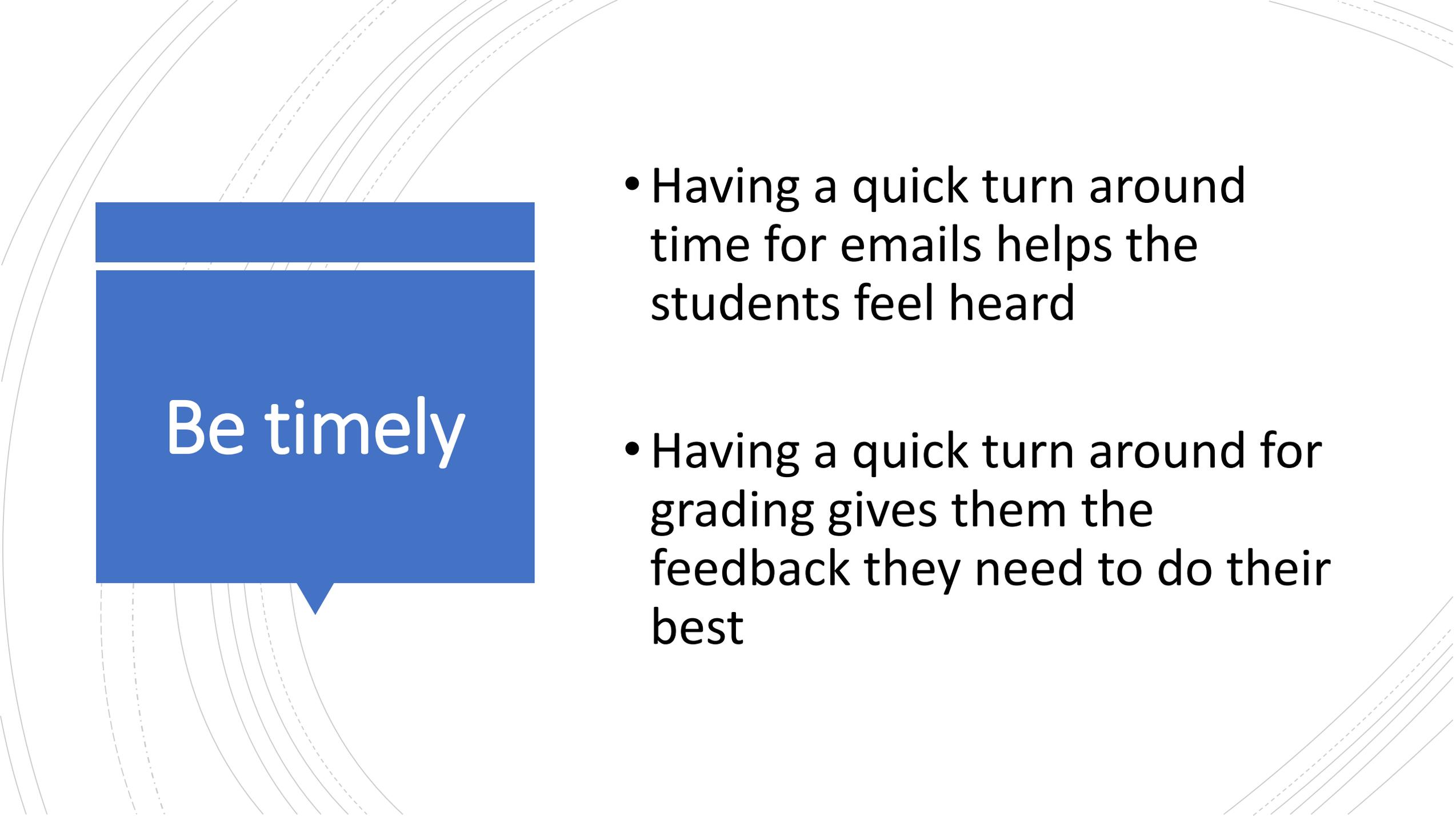
Send kudos emails – who doesn't love being acknowledged for their hard work

Life Raft

Send life raft emails – who doesn't have times when you need a helping hand

Reach out

Reach out constantly!!!

The background features several concentric, curved lines in shades of gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of motion and depth. A blue speech bubble is positioned on the left side of the slide.

Be timely

- Having a quick turn around time for emails helps the students feel heard
- Having a quick turn around for grading gives them the feedback they need to do their best

THE MOST IMPORTANT
THINGS IN LIFE ARE
THE CONNECTIONS
YOU MAKE WITH
OTHERS - TOM FORD

Thank you for attending!
Please reach out at any
time with questions or to
share ideas!
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References:

- Shank, Patti. “Building a Connection with Online Students Right from the Start.” Faculty Focus | Higher Ed Teaching & Learning, 14 Dec. 2016, www.facultyfocus.com/articles/online-education/building-a-connection-with-online-students-right-from-the-start/. Lang, James M. “Small Changes in Teaching: Making Connections.” The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Chronicle of Higher Education, 9 Feb. 2016, www.chronicle.com/article/Small-Changes-in-Teaching-/235230.