Live Seminar: Maximizing the student experience

Katie O'Neil, PhD
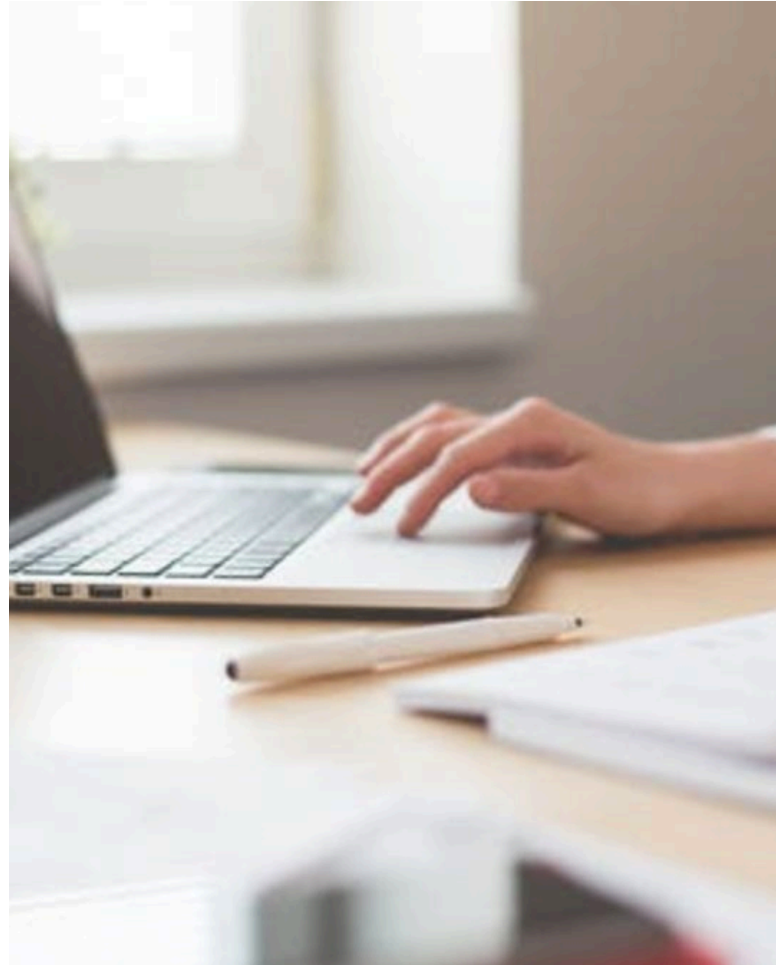
Composition Department

Overview

- Benefits of Seminar
- Available Tools
- Strategies
  - Virtual Field Trips
  - Screen Sharing
  - Breakout Rooms
- How might you apply these ideas?
- What other ideas do you use in your seminars?

Benefits of Seminar

- Synchronous discussion
- Clarification of course concepts
- Time for questions
- Personal connection
- Leveraging live seminar resources with skillfully planned lessons can strengthen the student experience (Richardson, York, and Lowenthal, 2014) .

Seminar Technology

- Determining how to best use technology to meet instructional goals can be challenging (Brill and Galloway, 2007).

Available Tools

- Original platform

- Instructor Audio

- Instructor Camera

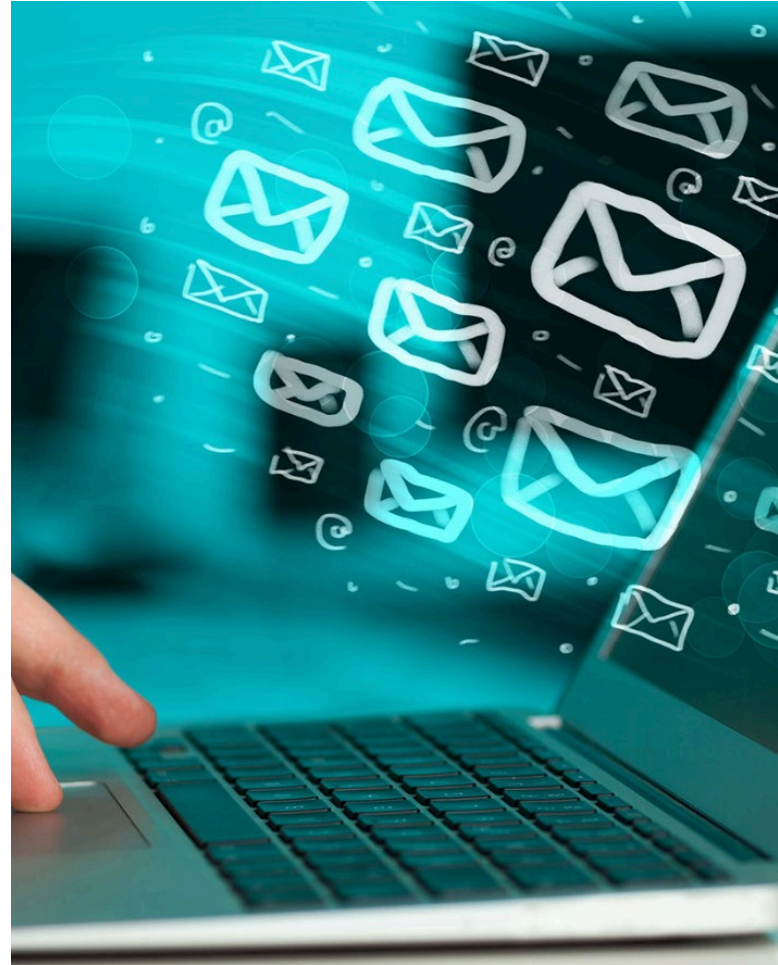- Screen sharing with options

Available Student Tools

- Audio
- Camera
- Benefits
  - Personal connection
  - Speaking faster than typing

Points to Consider

- Managing conversation
- Possible distractions
- Student comfort level
- Transcript information
- Adjusting tool settings

SEMINAR STRATEGIES

Virtual Field Trips

- Individual experience
- Guided by instructor
- Explore sites
- Gather information to share
- Analyze information

Field Trip Example CM107

Activity 1: VISIT A BLOG

What is a BLOG?

Visit this site and just review what ONE blogger does to share knowledge with others in her field:

http://www.teachthought.com/teaching/why-good-teachers-quit/

After reading the blog, share your reactions and thoughts. Points to consider include:

- Tone
- Language choice
- How are ideas supported?
- Organization of ideas
- Level of formality

Field Trip Points to Consider

- Include a report back task

- Differing reading speeds

- Balance silence and talking

Screen Sharing

- Live time sharing
- Ability to share desktop or individual tabs
- Step by step instructions
- How to

Screen Sharing Example CM107

Field Trip Points to Consider

- Inability to view typing

- Avoid extended time period

- Be aware of what is visible

Breakout Rooms

- Small group activities
- Timed
- Mic and camera access
- Workshop approach

Breakout Room Example CM107

Breakout Activity: Topic Check In

YOU THE WRITER:

Share your ideas for your Unit 4 assignment.

1. What is the topic you are writing ? How does it connect to your field?
2. What is your personal experience?
3. Who is your audience?
4. How can they use the information?

YOU AS A Reviewer

1. Offer suggestions for strengthening this main point.
2. Tell your classmate what YOU would need to be shown/given in a Blog post about this topic, if you were the audience this classmate.
3. What details, information, and/or examples would be necessary for this writer to succeed in accomplishing his or her purpose?

Breakout Rooms Points to Consider

- Cell and tablet access

- Time management

- Instructor access

- Grading

- Specific instructions

How might you use these strategies in your courses?

WHAT OTHER SEMINAR STRATEGIES CAN WE USE TO ENGAGE STUDENTS?

THANK YOU!

Questions?

Katie O'Neil, PhD

koneil@purdueglobal.edu

References

Brill, J. M., & Galloway, C. (2007). Perils and promises: University instructors' integration of technology in classroom-based practices. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, *38*(1), 95.

Richardson, J. C., York, C. S., & Lowenthal, P. R. (2014). *Online Learning : Common Misconceptions and Benefits and Challenges*. Nova Science Publishers, Inc.