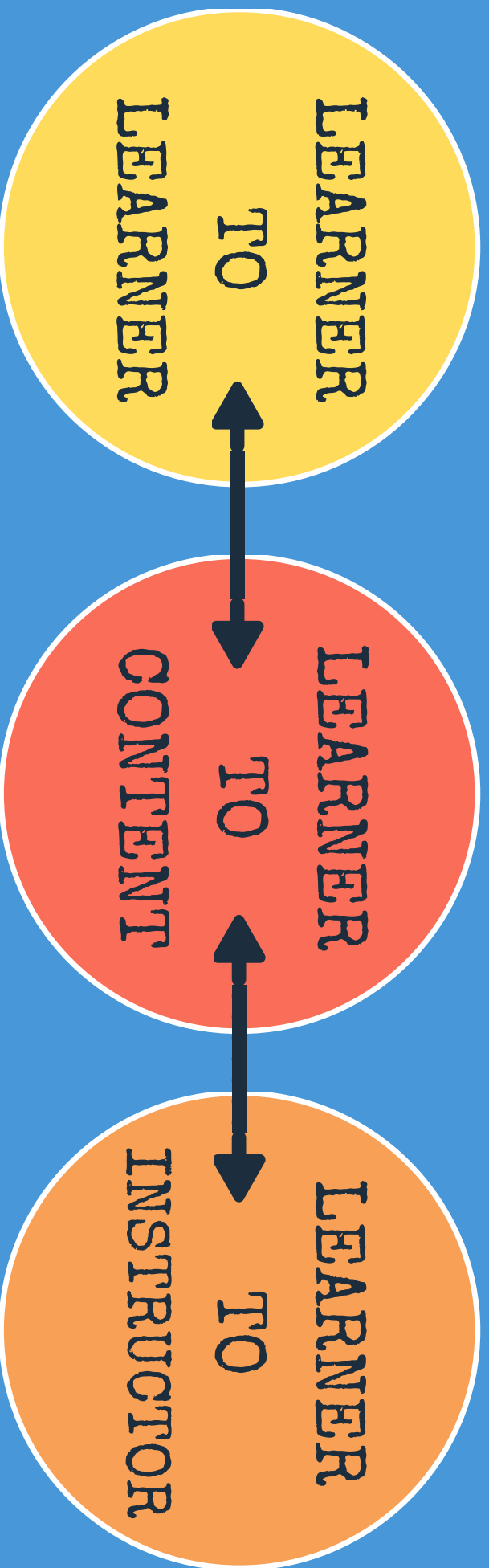


THE THREE INTERACTIONS YOUR ONLINE COURSE NEEDS



BY KELLY KEANE

WHAT ARE

LEARNER
TO
LEARNER

INTERACTIONS?

RolePlaying
CaseStudies
GroupProjects
CollaborativeBrainstorming
PeerInstruction
Discussions
PeerReviews
Debates

QUICK ACTIONS

- ✓ Encourage students to share their personal history or profile
- ✓ Identify what learners have in common
- ✓ Help learners project themselves
- ✓ Model respectful and supportive interactions (i.e. address learners by name, quote each other)
- ✓ Design activities that support information seeking and sharing
- ✓ Support the collective production of knowledge
- ✓ Have a system in place that holds everyone accountable (i.e. team contract or roles and responsibilities document)

Providing activities that offer a range of
Learner to Learner interaction

(from substantial

to moderate

to light

to none)

allows students with different
preferences for the amount of peer
interaction to be comfortable at some
points and challenged to expand their
comfort zone at others.

WHAT ARE



INTERACTIONS?

Watching
Webquests
Searching
Journaling
Discussions
Useful Quizzes
Reflections
Simulations
Exploring
Listening
Reading

QUICK ACTIONS

- ✓ Intentionally organize the course with well structured modules
- ✓ Let learners make their own decisions about content on occasion
- ✓ Allow learners to move through the course at different speeds
- ✓ Encourage critical thinking through activities and discussions
- ✓ Provide opportunities for reflection and self-assessment

Remember that when designing a course, it takes time for the learners to understand and explore how to find things, how to participate in activities, and what is expected of them while at the same time being introduced to new content.

This can drain the learners' ability to process information and perform at the same time.

WHAT ARE

LEARNER

TO

INSTRUCTOR

INTERACTIONS?

Direct Instruction

Informal Mentoring

Establishing Social Presence

Providing Feedback

Sharing Expectations

Regular Communication

Support

QUICK ACTIONS

- ✓ Set expectations for course participation and peer interactions
- ✓ Provide encouragement at the early stages of the semester
- ✓ Model the frequency, timeliness, and character of interactions that you expect
- ✓ Use rubrics to communicate expectations
- ✓ Send personal emails to welcome each student
- ✓ Provide feedback on assignments in multiple modalities (written, audio, and/or visual)
- ✓ Participate cautiously in discussions and chats
- ✓ Provide virtual or phone office hours and make clear your availability as the instructor

To easily build learner - instructor interactions, post comments or summaries to the whole class that reference forum posts, summarize emergent ideas from a discussion, preview the next week, offer tips and tricks, point to exemplary work, identify what is going well and what needs to be improved, and/or encourage students to interact.

QR Code for Handout



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