



Engaging Students in the Virtual Classroom

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A Little Bit About Me

- * 10th year teaching at CAVA
- * Taught at another on-line school before that
- * All of us are Homeroom Teachers as well as content teachers
 - * Students who are in both my Homeroom and Spanish class are more engaged in both
- * Advisor to Spanish Club, WE Club, AP Club



Meet My Friend Lula

“My name is Stephanie Plum, and I work as a bond enforcement officer for Vincent Plum Bail Bonds. Lula is the office file clerk, but more often than not she’s my wheelman. Lula is a couple inches shorter than I am, a bunch of pounds bigger, and her skin is a lot darker. She’s a former streetwalker who gave up her corner but kept her wardrobe. She favors neon colors and animal prints, and she fearlessly tests the limits of spandex.”

– *Takedown Twenty* by, Janet Evanovich



What Do You Do?

- * Regardless on where or what you teach, what do you do to engage students?



What Do You Do?

- * Common things we do as teachers:
 - * greet them at the door
 - * non-verbal acknowledgment (wave, smile, etc.)
 - * address them by name/learn their names
 - * acknowledge them when you see them on-campus outside your classroom

Challenges

- * What are some of the challenges facing virtual school teachers?
 - * not able to monitor all students at once
 - * setting up and moving from breakout room to breakout room
 - * students may not be on task if they are in a breakout room with no teacher present
 - * students may log-in, but are not actually present
 - * less likely to speak (“my mic doesn’t work”)

How Do We Overcome Challenges?

- * Interaction is meaningful and motivates the learner to engage in the conversation
 - * the exchange should not be just to check for understanding, but check for understanding in a way that leads to meaningful conversation beyond the lesson's major focus
- * Communication
 - * 1:1 after the session
 - * Phone calls
 - * E-mails
- * In-person events are the key
 - * They become more engaged upon meeting you
 - * You're no longer just a name behind a computer
 - * I live in So Cal, but do at least 1 Nor Cal event per year

Use Brick and Mortar Strategies

- * Use your webcams
 - * smile
 - * wave
- * Greet by name (using the target language!)
- * Get to know them
- * School-wide events?
 - * acknowledge them (including former students)
- * Become a club advisor!
 - * Studies show when teachers are invested in campus, students are invested in those teachers

What I Do?

- * Have fun with them!
- * Tell them crazy stories about when I was in high school
 - * Definitely interesting times in Spanish!
- * Relate to them
 - * I'm not a native speaker
 - * No one in my family knows Spanish
- * Bribe them
 - * Play games a couple times per semester
 - * Gift cards for the winners
- * Connect them to the curriculum



Thinking Outside The Box

- * Dialectology
- * Music
 - * Jane Ortner Music Award
 - * Past Recipient = Nicole Naditz (ACTFL TOY)
- * Idioms/Proverbs
- * Awards Shows
 - * Latin GRAMMYs
 - * Eurovision Song Contest
- * Authentik Approach (see file)
- * Cinco de mayo
 - * Combined session with all the Spanish/French students and co-taught with a French teacher

What Do Other Virtual Teachers Do?

- * Music Videos
- * Sing-A-Longs
- * Moveables
 - * Images added to the Whiteboard after it's loaded in the BlackBoard
- * Student-driven activities
 - * whiteboard tools
 - * using the mic

What Do Students Think?

- * We know what we do to engage students
- * You've heard what we do on-line
- * But what do the students think?
 - * <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-GSGRBSSY/>

Summary of Student Responses





Questions/Comments?