

## **Dr. Brenda Wolodko: Building relationship**

1

00:00:06,500 --> 00:00:08,200

Hi folks, I am Brenda Wolodko.

2

00:00:09,200 --> 00:00:20,200

I currently teach at University but I taught for about 13 or 14 years from K to 6.

3

00:00:20,500 --> 00:00:27,400

And I want to talk today about engagement online and how do we engage students.

4

00:00:27,900 --> 00:00:36,700

And I guess what are the things that I have learned throughout all of my teaching is the importance of relationships and connections.

5

00:00:37,100 --> 00:00:51,400

And what I find is that within online learning if I set up an environment in which students feel like I care about them and feel like I know something about them, then they are far more likely to engage.

6

00:00:51,700 --> 00:01:07,300

So, at the beginning of the term, I always make sure I have a welcome video and in the welcome video, I try to help them understand a little bit about who I am and not just about here are the facts but a little bit about who I am too.

7

00:01:07,700 --> 00:01:23,700

And what the students have said is that when they can see my face and hear me, then they feel like they can connect to me and I think that that was probably the big reason why I decided I would do short little video clips.

8

00:01:24,100 --> 00:01:34,800

When I do the same thing as all throughout the term, I often have students involved in activities where they need to do an activity and then discuss with each other online.

9

00:01:35,200 --> 00:01:51,100

And so that -- So, what I'll often do is I instead of doing longer lectures, I'll do shorter little clips and I usually try to make them between two and three minutes normally but never anymore than five minutes.

10

00:01:51,900 --> 00:02:04,300

And in that, I'll introduce a concept or an idea or sometimes I'll even just tell a story to introduce the idea that connects to the readings and then to their activity that they do.

11

00:02:05,100 --> 00:02:10,100

And what I found is that the students will engage in these activities.

12

00:02:10,400 --> 00:02:18,700

It is often a challenge to get students to engage actively online and this is one of the ways I get them to connect to me.

14

00:02:20,600 --> 00:02:27,000

One of the ways I get them to connect to one another because I may have students from all over the place is I have them --

15

00:02:27,500 --> 00:02:43,100

At the very beginning, I introduce themselves and in the little line where they can say who they are and instead for the topic I have them say "I am -- hi, this is Brenda from Armidale," for example.

00:02:43,300 --> 00:02:55,400

And then when they -- and I say when -- look at the people that are from your area, get to know them and maybe you can get together and actually meet face to face and that seems to help a lot for the students that are interested in doing that.

16

00:02:56,100 --> 00:03:02,100

So, thank you very much. I hope this helps you think about relationships and connections online.