

Dr. Jennifer Charteris: Promoting group work

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Hello, my name is Dr. Jennifer Charteris and I'm going to talk with you about learner agency.

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Learner agency can also be called learner-driven learning where learners own, take responsibility for, and drive the learning in the online context.

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An important facet of learner agency is the commitment to dialogue.

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And it's when students contribute to posts, post intellectual and substantive contributions online and actually respond to the ideas of others they are a learning community.

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A key idea that you can think about when developing a culture online that supports learner agency is the notion of group work where learners moderate and drive their own learning in that context.

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Once students become proficient in discussions, it's good to support them to moderate these conversations for themselves.

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You have to teach them how to do this.

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You cannot assume that learners know how to do this just as you can see learners need to learn the protocols around group work in classrooms.

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The same can be said for online spaces where learners need to know how to negotiate among themselves in order to promote quality learning in the group.

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So, a key goal there is to promote independence in that group.

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I usually like to drop in and make the odd comment to extend and challenge the thinking in the group and to make sure that people are aware that my presence is there in a supportive way but also to promote challenge and quality learning.

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It's also good for students to source and evaluate digital material for themselves and these groups and potentially individual tasks.

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They can source material and share with their peers.

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This moves the function of the learning management system beyond being a receptacle for the provision of information only to a generous of space where learners can genuinely contribute as 21st century learners.

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Thank you.