

How Are You Doing Really?: The Importance of Student-Instructor Conferences in Online Environments

Hannah Sincavage | University of Utah
Hannah.Sincavage@utah.edu

Key Points:

Students greatly value the communication that they have with their instructor.

- Real time communication is better because it encourages “student investment” (Sapp & Simon 482).

Through conferences, students are able to ask questions, go over drafts, discuss their current situations, and disclose any struggles they are having.

- Conferences also allow students to connect visually with their instructor, something that is very difficult to do in online courses.

Conferences are easy to set up and administer using tools like Google Docs and Zoom, which are accessible to students in all of your classes.

References:

Howard, Samuel B. "The Benefits of Face-to-Face Interaction in the Online Freshman Composition Course." *Journal of Online Learning and Teaching*, vol. 5, no. 4, 2009, pp. 685-697.

Sapp, David Alan, and James Simon. "Comparing Grades in Online and Face-to-Face Writing Courses: Interpersonal Accountability and Institutional Commitment." *Computers and Composition*, vol. 22, no. 4, 2005, pp. 471–489.

Rendahl, Merry, and Lee-Ann Kastman Breuch. "Toward a Complexity of Online Learning: Learners in Online First-Year Writing." *Computers and Composition*, vol. 30, no. 4, 2013, pp. 297–314.

Further Resources:

[Setting up a recurring meeting in Zoom](#)

[Template for a sign-up sheet](#)