

Estimated reading time: 2 minutes, 30 seconds

BerkeleyHaas

TEACHING TIP OF THE WEEK

Online Teaching Strategies

Tip of the Week: Create more opportunities for in-class discussion.

Remote or not, making discussions a part of your class gives students opportunities to connect with their peers, articulate their thoughts, and boost their learning. Here are some ideas on how to make that face-to-face time count:

- **Have students generate relevant questions.** To keep your sessions relevant to students' interests and to [help students retain what they've read](#), have students come up with questions about the readings or assignments, and use those to kick off the next class. Have them post their questions and reflections on bCourses for an extra point to add incentive, and let them know that you may call on them to share their question at the beginning of class. Seeing their questions and comments ahead of time will also help you prepare the appropriate materials for class.
- **After polling, dive deeper.** Polling on [Zoom](#), [Kahoot!](#), or [Poll Everywhere](#) is a great way to get a quick pulse on what students are thinking, but you don't have to stop there. Leverage the poll results to start deeper discussions by asking students about their choices and allowing them to share different points of view. If you don't need a [record of the polls](#), you can also use [Zoom's non-verbal feedback and reactions](#) feature to achieve the same goal.
- **Think-Pair-Share.** It can sometimes be intimidating to speak up or to be cold-called in front of a large class. To give students more time to reflect after you pose a question and to give every student a chance to weigh in, send students into [breakout rooms](#) to discuss first, and have them choose a representative to share the group's ideas when they come back to the main

session. Students can also use Google Docs or [Jamboards](#) to document their small-group discussions so that they have something to speak off of when they return to the large group.

- **Let students lead.** In the spirit of *Students Always*, try switching roles with your students and letting them take on the role of the expert for a part of class each week. Allowing teams of students to synthesize readings, review problem sets, or facilitate discussions helps them [reinforce their own learning](#), and the change of pace will help keep the rest of the class engaged. To plan ahead, create a sign-up sheet for students to choose which week they'd like to lead, and have them meet with you or a GSI during the week before class to make sure they're prepared.

What topics should we cover next? Fill out [this form](#) to let us know what else you'd like to learn about or to share tips that you think your fellow faculty members could benefit from.

Want to review previous teaching tips? Check out [the archive](#).

The Online Teaching Tip of the Week is a series produced for Haas Faculty by the Associate Dean for Learning Strategies' Online Teaching Tips Team.