Learner Engagement, Achievement & Assessment

University Council of Jamaica Quality Assurance Week Workshop

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- The pandemic has caused many institutions of higher learning to evaluate, research and implement protocols that clearly delineate between remote learning (the switch of 2020) and standard online learning. This will prompt an increased focus on quality assurance in online learning.
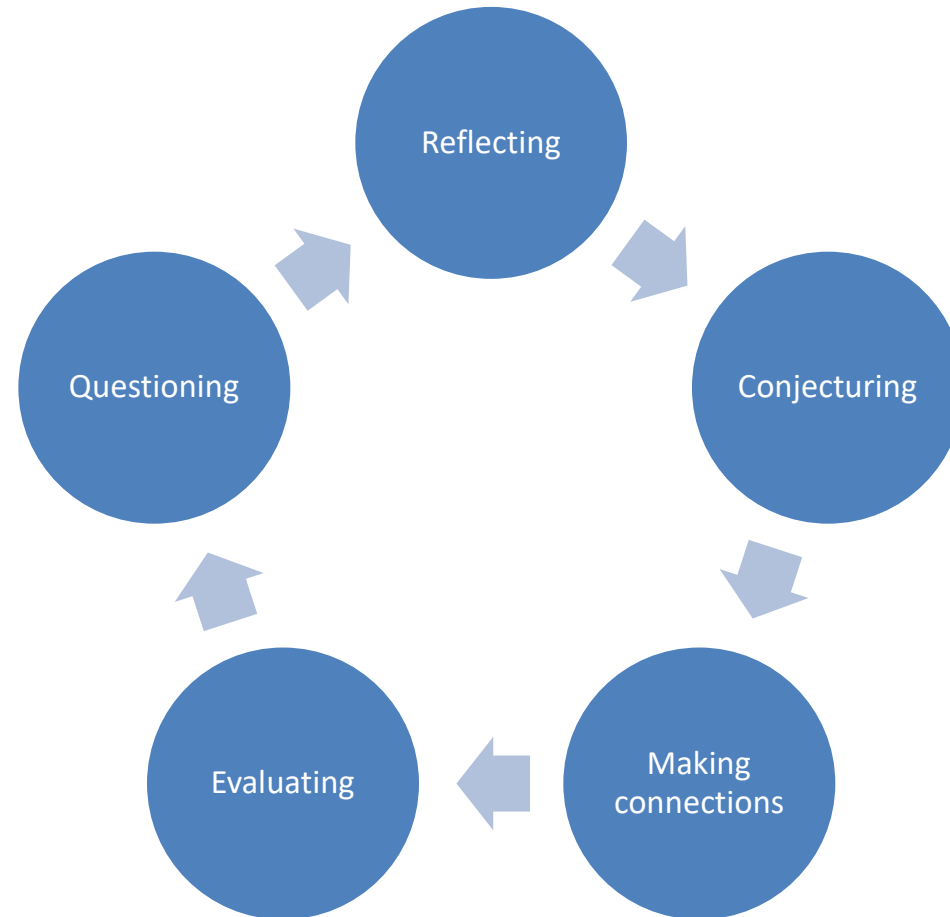
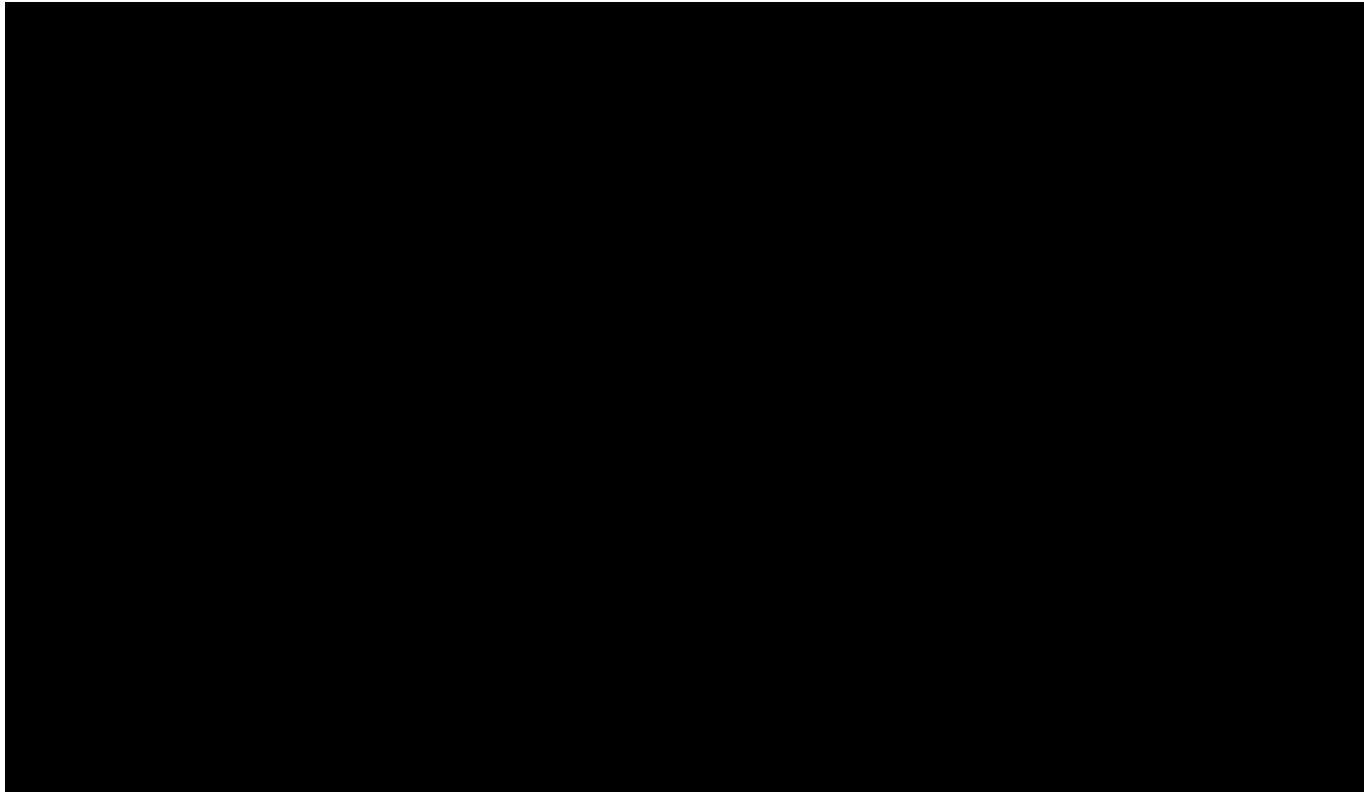# Learner Engagement
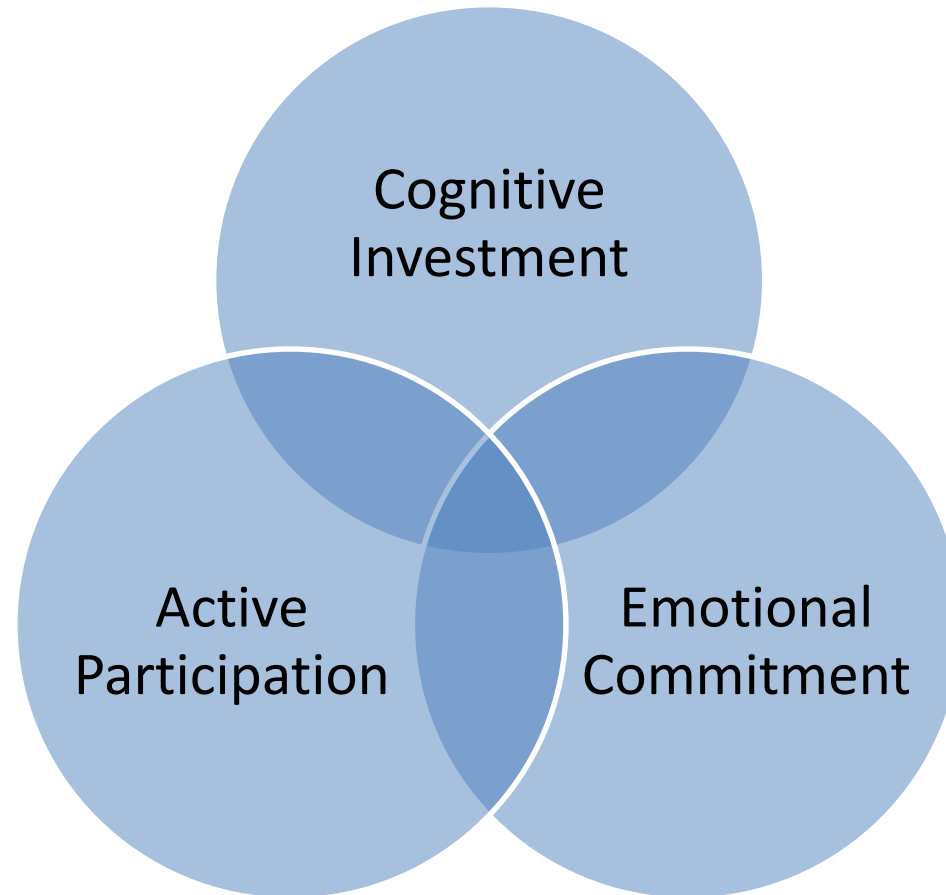
Teachers/Facilitators must create educational experiences for learners that challenge, enrich, broaden and develop their academic abilities

What Does Engagement Look Like?

Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

UDL

Multiple Options for presenting information

Multiple means of students expressing their learning

Multiple ways of engaging students' interests & motivation
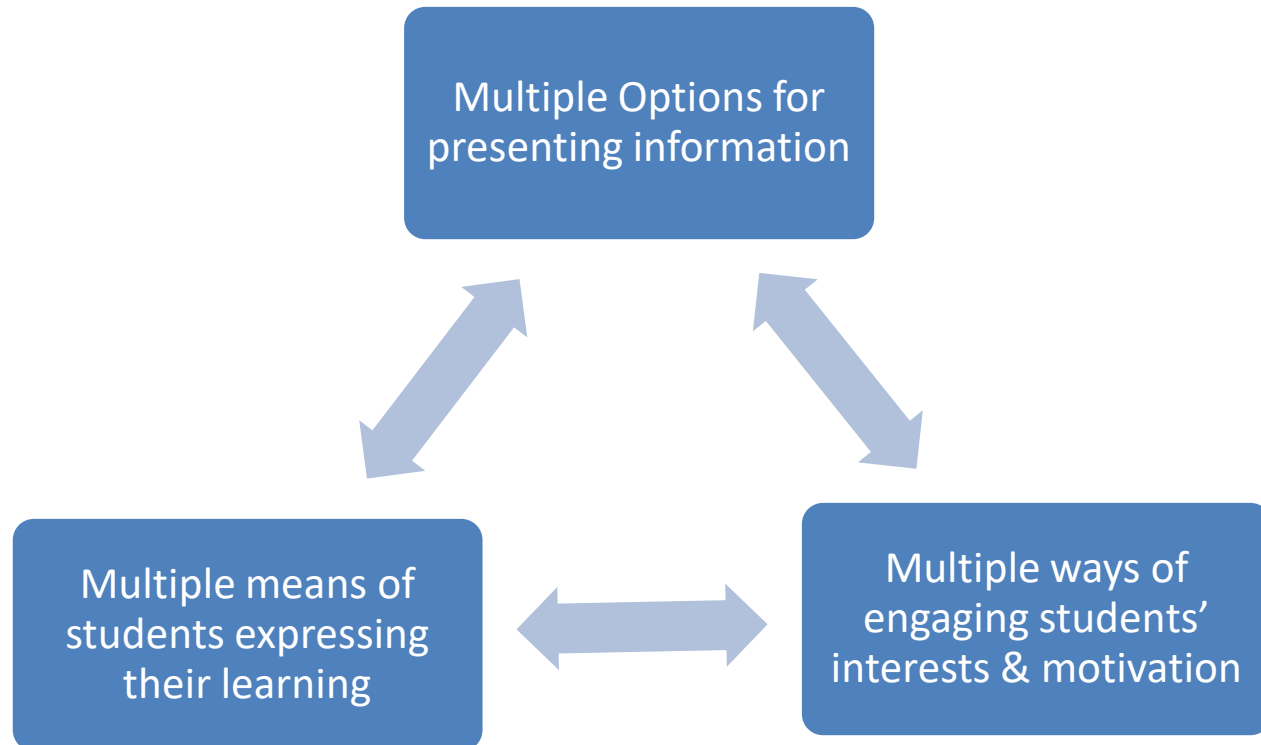
Considerations

- What is one thing that can be changed to make the course more accessible & inclusive
- What is desired for student learning and is there more than one way to demonstrate that learning
- Signs to look for:
  - Participation
  - Pride in produced work
  - Enthusiasm
  - Patience
  - Perseverance

Engagement Strategies

Connect learning to the real world

Engage with students interests

Use group work and collaboration

Encourage students to present (share work) regularly

Allow student input for assessments

Emphasize discovery, inquiry and creativity

Start lessons with an "introductory hook"

Utilize mixed media

Engagement Strategies

- Connect learning to the real world
- Engage with students interests
- Use group work and collaboration
- Encourage students to present (share work) regularly
- While giving guidance, allow student input for assessments
- Emphasize discovery, inquiry and creativity
- Start lessons with an "introductory hook"
- Utilize mixed media

Discussion Break – 6 minutes

Choose 1 person to report on Engagement & Assessment for the reporting session

Contemplate from the Discussion

- Which engagement strategy do you think is the most important?

- What is its advantage?

- What is its disadvantage?

- Does it allow for inclusivity?

Assessment

To design an effective online assessment

- Design a learner-centered assessment which includes self-reflection;

- Include and design grading rubrics

- Use assessment methods that fit the context and align with students' learning objectives;

- Design assessment that is easy to understand.

  - https://raccoongang.com/blog/how-do-you-measure-student-achievement-raccoon-gang/

Assessment & Management

Instruments & Activities

- Is to be congruent with learning goals
- Match the skills required of the learner

Assessment & Measurement Strategies

- Should facilitate special needs students
- Must consider characteristics and situations of distance learners

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"Assuring Quality in Higher Education"

Assisted Technology Tools

http://blog.whooosreading.org/6-types-of-assisted-technology-tools-that-make-a-difference

Text to Speech (TTS)	Graphic Organizers	Assistive Listening Systems
Sip-and-Puff Systems	Proofreading Software	Math Tools

Questions that need to be asked

- Which perspectives for learning are going to be assessed?
  - cognitive, behavioral or humanistic
- Who is going to make the assessment?
  - Students, their peers or the facilitator
- Will assessment strategies be learning experiences in themselves?
- Is the assessment to be formative or summative?
- Is there a balance between structure and academic freedom?

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Questions for consideration cont'd

- Are judgments of performance made against peer standards or established criteria?

- Will the assessment be authentic?
  - related to real life situations

- Will the assessment be integrated?
  - testing a range of knowledge and skills

- Is the assessment reliable and valid?

Kibby, M. (2003) Assessing students online. The   University of New Castle.

Engagement Strategies

Peer Assessment	Independent Projects	Jigsaw Projects
Self Assessment (Reflection)	Learning Journal	Portfolio
Video Presentation or Podcast	Online Discussion Forum	

Peer Assessment

- Model what helpful feedback looks like
- Monitor the comments each student receives to be informed of individual progress
- Allow feedback to take written form so you can access it
- Use the feedback of the student providing it, as part of formative assessment

Independent Projects

- Allow for independent inquiry

- Base the project around a research topic, problem solving activity, a creative activity or a mixture

- Set clear submission requirements

- Allow sufficient time – this type of activity should not be rushed

Jigsaw Projects

- Transform individual projects into collaborative ones using a jigsaw approach
- Allows for assessing teamwork abilities

Self Assessment

- Student reflection of learning reveals understanding and gaps or difficulties

- Make self-assessment a regular activity

- Model the language and self-questioning to help in producing productive reflection

- Encourage honesty

- Provide a structured resource

Learning Journals

- Constant source of formative assessment

- Builds metacognitive skills

- Use word processor or blogging platform

- Can allow freeform or specific types
  - https://www.teachthought.com/literacy/20-types-of-learning-journals-that-help-students-think/

Portfolios

- Allows both formative and summative assessment
- Set up portfolio space for students
- Examine at the end of each learning unit to formally assess progress/mastery
- Determine components of the portfolios while also allowing for student creativity
- Encourage the use of reflection to justify the inclusion of the components

Video Presentations/Podcast

- Oral assessments
- Students that are tech-savvy are given an outlet
- Can allow for grouping of students to encourage discussion
- Content is the key element for the presentation.

Online Discussion

- Allows for reviewing and rereading

- Gives time to post detailed responses

- Specifying the criteria for discussion can allow it to assist with summative assessment

Sources on Engagement &Assessment

- https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/effective-teaching-strategies/10-ways-to-promote-student-engagement/
- https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1469787410337960
- https://www.d2l.com/blog/top-5-activities-increase-student-engagement/
- Zepke, Nick & Leach, Linda. (2010). Improving student engagement: Ten proposals for action. Active Learning in Higher Education. 11. 167-177.
- https://www.teachthought.com/literacy/20-types-of-learning-journals-that-help-students-think/
- https://www.westga.edu/~distance/ojdla/spring111/kim111.html
- https://www.facultyfocus.com/topic/articles/online-education/online-student-engagement/

FUN TIME

- In your url type "Kahoot.it"
- Wait for the PIN, enter where required
- Choose a Name