

# Building Rapport Online

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COSTS: FREE

## Need for Innovation

- ❑ With the impact of COVID-19 and mandate for online learning, building rapport with students has become challenging as strategies are not as salient in the virtual environment.
- ❑ Rapport can significantly impact student retention, engagement, and academic achievement (Estep & Roberts, 2013).

*So how do we do this effectively in an online setting?*

## How It Works

- ❑ Make rapport building an **integral** part of each class.
- ❑ **Casual conversations** at the beginning of class were facilitated by instructors.
- ❑ **Virtual scavenger hunts** that focused on various themes throughout the semester. Both individual and group scavenger hunts added a fun component.
- ❑ **Google check-in forms** provided students an anonymous voice.
- ❑ **Breakout rooms** with non-academic discussion topics allowed students the social interaction lacking in online.

## Results to Date

- ❑ As activities took place throughout the semester, camera usage increased.
- ❑ Increased comfort level with Zoom.
- ❑ Scavenger hunts created opportunities for students to talk and foster partnerships.
- ❑ Helped to mimic face to face interactions.

## Future Plans/Advice to Others

- ❑ Identify and Incorporate strategies for each class.
- ❑ Incorporate activities that facilitate the community aspect and allow students to engage with one another.
- ❑ Seek out activities to challenge students to think critically and use technology leading to an increase in comfort level.
- ❑ As an instructor actively participate to encourage student participation.
- ❑ Use activities that encourage the use of the camera function.

