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Is Anybody Out There? Strategies for Communication in Online Courses

Communication is fundamental to any course, but can be particularly challenging in an online course. In this talk I will discuss different strategies to encourage student-teacher and student-student communication, and monitor whether this is happening.

I will cover using the quiz format to give announcements, opportunities to tweak content-quizzes to help students see the nuances in the materials, and techniques to encourage students to read the feedback they are given. I will also describe a pilot to bring real-time, small-group discussions to an asynchronous online class.

At the end, I will talk about setting up online course shell and ways to mentor online teachers to pass on successful communication strategies.