

ENGAGEMENT FROM AN INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER PERSPECTIVE



Jan. 12th, 1:45 pm- 2:20 pm ET



TOURO UNIVERSITY
Graduate School of Technology



**FORT HAYS STATE
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Yellowdig Learner Engagement Summit

January 12, 2023

Improving Student Engagement & The Issues/Trends

- Assisting faculty balance tool usage based on purpose
- Increasing tool knowledge and resources for students and faculty
- Increasing student choice in assignments and tools
- Build a sense of class community in online courses (e.g. off-topics)
- “Social Media Look” for students to speak freely and share resources

Presenters

Jennifer Werner, Brooke D’Adamo



Presenter

Holly Owens



Presenter

Zhongrui Yao



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Yellowdig & The Complete Educational Experience

- Incorporates social and emotional learning
- Increases connections and builds community among students and faculty
- Increases student engagement and success in course outcomes
- Promote critical thinking and student agency
- Enable authentic conversations and reflections

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Supporting Cognitive and Social Presence

- Utilize instructor Accolades
- Provide point earning for student posts, reactions and comments
- Create Topics based on student contributions and themes seen in the course and in the Yellowdig Community
- Provide effective and relevant discussion prompts or topics

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Supporting Cognitive and Social Presence

- Ask students to share work and critique peer's work
- Use reaction emojis, hashtags, comments
- Use tools like video recording, poll, drawing, formula

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Supporting Through the Yellowdig Mindset

- Create/utilize faculty resources to better understand Yellowdig and its purpose/role in the course
- Guide faculty towards reevaluating their Yellowdig prompts for students to respond to
- Experiment with different Yellowdig Point Earning options for certain courses and with certain faculty

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Regular & Substantive Interaction

- RSI criteria includes
 - Scheduled/frequent interactions throughout the semester
 - Interactions that connect to course outcomes
 - Instructor initiated activities and/or feedback
- RSI in Yellowdig
 - Course Community Topics - Questions, Virtual Office, Announcements
 - Accolades, example posts and comments or reactions to posts
 - Assignment/Prompt pages in LMS

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Yellowdig's Integration into Our LMS

- Enable grade passback to LMS and display grades in Yellowdig
- Utilize one assignment to connect to the Yellowdig Community
- Create/utilize student and faculty Yellowdig resources for anticipated issues and frequently asked questions
- Add course link to Yellowdig community in each module
- Provide discussions prompts or topics on LMS

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Thank You!

Additional Information and Examples on Slides 10-19

Experiences/top Tips in Yellowdig for Student Engagement

- Provide **effective** discussion prompts
 - a list of subtopics
 - a list of thought-provoking questions
 - Asking students to share resources, their individual or group work, comment to others' work
- Encourage student to create topics they are **interested—Friendship?**
- Encourage students to **frequently** engage in Yellowdig discussions every week—**sense of community?**

Presenter

Zhongrui Yao



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Experiences/top Tips in Yellowdig for Student Engagement

- Add reactions and comment to each other —**positive experience with interactions with classmates?**
- Add hashtags that might attract students sharing the same interest —**positive experience with interactions with classmates?**
- Add interesting accolades to students' posts (no point attached)

Presenter

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ID Issues and Trends in Student Engagement

- Balancing tool usage based on purpose
- Student/faculty lack of tool knowledge and familiarity
- Student choice in assignments and participation
- Alignment to student learning outcomes

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Brooke D'Adamo



Engagement in Online Courses - Challenges

- Monotony of discussion boards - “checklist” item
- Teacher led instead of student driven
- Engagement times - mostly at end of week (near due date)

Presenter
Holly Owens



Engagement in Online Courses - Opportunities

- Yellowdig is **THE opportunity**
 - Choice in participation - flexibility
 - Student driven
 - Crowdsourcing
 - Gamified - instant gratification

Presenter
Holly Owens



Top Yellowdig Tips Based on Our Experiences

TIP #1

Faculty and Student
Yellowdig Resources



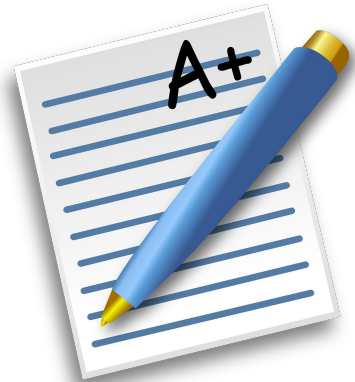
TIP #2

Freeform Points
Yellowdig Community



TIP #3

Extra Credit
Yellowdig Community



#1 - Faculty and Student Yellowdig Resources

Students

- Yellowdig Orientation and Using Yellowdig in this Course pages:
 - What is Yellowdig?
 - Learn Yellowdig in Under 3 Minutes
 - Yellowdig Grade Passback
 - Accessing Yellowdig
 - Course Point Earning System
 - Yellowdig Topics
- Yellowdig Quiz

Faculty

- Student-facing Yellowdig Orientation and Using Yellowdig in this Course pages
- Yellowdig Instructor expectations
- Example Yellowdig posts
- Key Yellowdig features
 - Filtering by student names
 - Points Report access
- Yellowdig FAQs

#2 - Freeform Points Yellowdig Community

Earning Window

- Start: **08/18/22 12am**
- End: **11/14/22 12am**

Point Goal

- Total Goal: **100** points

There are no weekly limits for points earning.

One point goal can be set for the entire course for students to reach at any pace/time. Or, a point goal is needed at all.

Setting a community start and end date is also optional.

In certain courses and with certain topics and instructor engagement, this system provides more flexibility and student choice regarding Yellowdig engagement.

