

# Ideas for Using Blackboard

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Use the following ideas in your own Blackboard Course as a tool for helping your students learning. Remember: Don't use a strategy just because it will make your course more exciting.

## *Posting Documents*

- **Posting Class Materials:** Upload class notes/handouts (i.e. PowerPoint, Word Documents) for students to access throughout the semester.
- **Information Organizers:** Have students print organizers (i.e. Fill in the Blank, Questions, Diagrams) before class to complete during a class or while reading the textbook.
- **Links to Internet Resources:** Provide links to different Websites available for the subject you are teaching. Have students review, critique, or use these sites as a model for creating their own web site.

## *Online Assessments*

- **Pre-Class Quizzes:** Give students a quick online quiz that allows them to review information they need to commit to memory. Have students take the quiz after reading a chapter to see if they know the material before they come to class.
- **Diagnostic Self-Checks:** Create a review quiz that refers them to specific areas of the text, or handouts when they answer a question incorrectly. You can also base the feedback on which answer the student picked.
- **Written (Essay) Assignments:** Post instructions and collect assignments on-line. (Be careful: don't ask students to submit 10 page reports electronically. You will have to print and organize.).
- **Groups of One:** Have students post their materials online within an individual group page.
- **Online Journals or Learning Logs:** Have students keep a journal with reactions and thoughts in an individual group discussion.

## *Communication and Groups*

- **Moderated Online Discussion:** Have students participate in a online discussion as a means of critiquing an article, discussing controversial issues, expanding the lecture outside of class, etc.
- **Character Analysis:** Have students analyze a character of a book or movie using the discussion board
- **Mock Personality:** Have students create their own online character from a book they are reading. Have them use their student page to create and post character information.
- **Groups:** Have students use the group area to meet and share files, ideas, develop presentations, etc.

- **Online Peer Review:** Have students post a news article about their main area of study in the discussion area. Have other students critique the article and/or make editorial comments/changes. Train students on how to critique positively. (Be careful: if the work is not original be aware of copyright laws.)

### ***Web Assignments***

- **Web Quests:** Create an online field trip using different Websites. Have students collect specific information from each site. Collect the information using a mini-quiz or post the information in a group.
- **Role Playing:** Have students play different roles in solving a problem. Each student researches the web as a method for solving the problem. They debate their solutions online taking the stance of their assigned role.
- **Online Case Studies:** Post an article online and have students post their reactions and thoughts based on in-class learning.
- **Website Evaluation:** Have students identify several web sites that are appropriate for the course. Have students share/present the along with a short critique.

### ***Other Ideas:***

- **Online Tutorials:** Create an online tutorial to describe a complicated topic or a stumbling block in your course.