Make Up for Snow Days with Technology and More!

Was your class affected by the weather? Are you looking for a way to make up the missed hours? Do you still want to ensure that your students have meaningful learning experiences? Or you are simply looking for ideas on how technology can support student learning?

The Office of Online Education hosted two Q&A sessions and here are some highlights to share.

What are the time expectations for a make-up session?

If you want to make up for a 3-hour class session, you will want to plan for up to 9 hours of learning activities. Usually, the expectations are that students complete double the amount class time as homework. Thus, to make up the missed time you will combine the class time with homework time. That could include readings, video materials, assignments, and interactions on the discussion board or a live session, which does not have to be all 3 hours. You may want to schedule a review or a Q&A online live session using video conferencing or voicethread.

When is the best time to schedule a make-up session?

It might be difficult for students to attend a live session on a short notice and also have the technology at hand on the snow day itself. You might want to plan ahead and ask students for the best time using a doodle poll. If you are scheduling a live online session, you can also record the session and post it in your course for students who could not participate to view. Additionally, you can also have a session on the Reading Day, which is scheduled by the CUNY Registrar and is posted on the academic calendar. For example, for Spring 2018, the Reading Day is on Thursday, May 17.

What are the best practices in designing and creating a make-up session?

In order to make the most of the missed time, consider the learning outcomes for that class session, then you can plan for the course materials (readings, video, etc.), types of activities and assessment (a paper assignment, discussion, group work, reflection, presentation, etc.) and interactions (students interact with the instructor and each other) to meet those learning outcomes.

How can I replicate my class lecture?

You can use voicethread to create mini-lectures of your class presentation. If you already use PowerPoint slides, or other types of media (documents, images, video) in your lectures, you can import them directly into voicethread to create an engaging student learning experience. Students can view the voicethread and post comments or questions they might have about the topic to fully engage with class materials. In order to engage students you need to create slides that would encourage students to respond, provide an example and participate. Also turning your voicethread into an assignment not only will help you track and grade student activity but help students take responsibility for their learning.

For questions or to follow up on any of these ideas, please contact us directly at online.education@lehman.cuny.edu.