Student Agency in Online Learning

Self-Advocacy
Self-advocacy helps you represent and communicate your interests and points of view. It is critical for others to understand your thoughts, strengths, and areas of need.

Reflect
Reflect on and practice the ideas from your educational courses as you move from being a teacher education student to a student teacher to being an in-service teacher. This reflection is a critical part of applying theory to practice.

Learner Mindset
Learner mindset includes your self-concept and self-efficacy beliefs about your ability to learn as well as your mindset toward failure. These attitudes and beliefs can shape your motivation toward the content you are learning.

Self-Regulation
Self-regulation affords you the ability to consider how your environment, expectations, disposition, and community influence your learning. As an informed learner, you can self-regulate to ensure you are taking into account what is appropriate, measured, and healthy.

Cooperative Learning
Online learning can be isolating, so make the most of cooperative learning opportunities. Mentors can take the form of professors, instructors, parents, peers, and members of your community.

As learning environments rapidly change for both young students and adults, we need to reconsider how we approach learning tasks and engagement. This resource highlights several critical elements of student agency in online learning, including strategies that learners can use to improve their experience. It can be distributed to teacher candidates to support reflection on their own online learning and their transition to the classroom.

TEN STRATEGIES FOR ONLINE LEARNING SUCCESS

01

Activate A Learner Mindset

Reflect on your own experiences and beliefs as a learner. Lean into challenges that give you opportunities to grow! Gain insight into your motivation and readiness with an online assessment. (e.g. Online Student Readiness Tutorials)

02

Understand The Learning Sciences

Research can deepen your insight into how different learning contexts and content impact your learning and that of your students.

03

Use Metacognitive Strategies

Pay attention to how courses, lessons, and tasks are designed. Reflect on what triggered your own learning, seek feedback, and keep your learning in mind when planning lessons in your classroom.

04

Set Goals and Expectations

Identify short- and long-term goals aligned with regulating your responses to stimuli. Consider intermittent benchmarks that will help you progress with steady and consistent practice and focus.

05

Practice Positive Self-Talk

Consistently reflect on your learning and celebrate your engagement from a strength-based approach. You have assets, strengths, and curiosities that you can employ to support your learning. Regularly affirm your assets.

06

Regulate Your Environment

Consider how your environment influences your disposition and your productivity. Determine how to use your environment as an asset. Change your environment when it is not an asset.

07

Advocate For Your Needs

Be candid about the areas that you need help during the learning process. Make sure your concerns are expressed with clarity.

08

Seek Out Mentors

Mentors can be professors, instructors, parents, peers, and members of your community. Ask for feedback on ways to improve. Learn about effective practices they have found to be successful in their own learning and teaching experiences.

09

Actively Engage

Seek out opportunities to engage with your instructor and peers in meaningful interactions in order to increase satisfaction and persistence in a course.

10

Action Research

Continue to engage in your own action research whenever possible. Be reflective about what works, what doesn't work, and how to improve your learning and teaching.