

Developing Social Presence

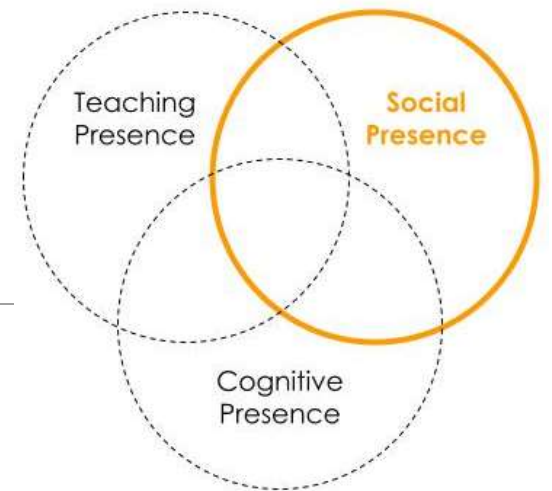
OSU Motivation in Classrooms Lab – Motivation Minute

How can I help my students feel connected in the classroom?

How to assist students in connecting with other students, teachers, content, and the world!

Community of Inquiry: The process in which a deep sense of learning is experienced through social presence, teaching presence (coming in April), and cognitive presence (coming in May).





- **Social Presence:** A student's ability to identify with their community—other students, teachers, content, and the world.



How can teachers motivate student engagement within the classroom?

Goal: Teach K-12 students to engage in open, honest communication and develop group cohesiveness (AKA Social Presence within Community of Inquiry).

To help students of all ages, teachers can:

 <h3>Students</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assign seats but change them often: Allows students to get to know all of their peers.• Work in small groups or pairs: Allows students to create bonds within peer groups.• Start the class with an icebreaker question: Motivate students with immediate engagement.	 <h3>Teachers</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share personal stories and experiences: Motivates students and instructors to make their own connections to the stories being shared.• Admit to mistakes: Shows students that the instructor wants to be honest and connect with students.• Take time to ask students about themselves and get to know them beyond small talk: Connects teachers and students by helping them develop relationships that may not be established otherwise.
 <h3>Content</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a class quote, like “my classroom is a canvas and I am an artist,” and have students discuss it weekly: Creates a connection with peers that highlights the content being taught in the classroom.• Share a news or blog post to communicate key concepts, reminders of past, present, and future events: Reinforces the content being learned.	 <h3>The World</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a classroom bulletin board or class wall where students can post weekly on life outside the classroom with text, images and/or videos: Allows the instructor and students to understand their peers lives outside of class and to connect with the outside world.

References:

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2. Garrison, D. R., and T. Anderson. 2003. *E-learning in the 21st century: A framework for research and practice*. New York: Routledge Falmer.
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