# Keys to Teaching Online: Talking about Teaching Online

## What is the key to teaching effectively online?

[Lesa Huber] What is the key to teaching effectively online? You know - is there just one key? Because I think there are a lot of keys to teaching effectively online. The first is keeping it fun for me because when I start to get bored or it start to get wearisome, then I’m not being a good teacher.

So, there are a number of things that I do, I do, to being an effective online teacher and to keeping it fun. One is just taking advantage of strategies to manage time because you can really sink up a lot time. Being really organized. All those materials really have to be upfront because if the students get confused, they’re not happy. They’re not happy and then I’m not happy.

Keeping it personal. Just as I encourage the students to create an online presence, I really work at creating a very human and online presence. And I do that by, to the best of my ability and I don’t always do it as well as I would like, responding as quickly and as promptly as I can to student e-mails and to assignments. I think if the students really feel that anger there they know someone is there then they’re happy in the online environment. If they feel like they’re sending their assignments off into cyberspace, it’s going to be gone forever – they’re not so happy. So really being as present and as human as I can, I think I’m an effective online instructor.

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