



# **Best Practices for Teaching Research Methods in an Online Learning Environment**

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# What is your background?

- A) I teach online courses.
- B) I teach research methods courses.
- C) All of the above.
- D) None of the above.



# Research Methods

- We have substantial objectives:
  - Terminology
  - Methods
  - Critical analysis
  - Application
  - Advanced skill acquisition
  - Ethical sensitivity





# Research Methods

- It can be overwhelming for students.
- Anxiety provoking\*



\* Rapp-McCall and Anyikwa (2016)



# Strategies – Seminar Workshops

- Consider introducing mini-workshops into seminars and meetings.
- Focus on skill-based areas, for example:
  - Identifying variables
  - Developing hypotheses
  - Developing explanations
  - Establishing the population
- Provide feedback
- Provide encouragement
- Students learn from the variety and feedback

# SAMPLE

## Step 3: State your hypothesis

$H_1$  There is a significant correlation between  
[independent/predictor variable] and  
[dependent/criterion variable].

Provide further explanation  
regarding what you expect  
to see.



# Strategies - Templates

- Consider using writing templates for research papers.
  - Research shows that writing templates are effective in other areas.\*
  - We use templates in Research Methods at KU.
  - Increase student confidence.

\*Akdemir and Eyerci (2016)



# Strategies – Field Trips

- Class field trips are an engaging way to explore and apply course concepts
- Examples:
  - Ted Talks Video Lessons and Talks
    - [Philip Zimbardo](#)
    - [Nicolas Perony](#)
  - Online Databases and Statistics
    - [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
    - [www.worldvaluessurvey.org](http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org)
    - [www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org)



# Strategies – Connections

- Connect the course content to their professional work and/or goals
  - How will they use their new knowledge, skills, and abilities in the field?
  - Scholar-Practitioner model





# Strategies – Application and Engagement

- Using approaches that increase student engagement are particularly important.
- Hoffman (2014)
  - Students use real data
  - Project centered; application at the start
- Rapp-McCall and Anyikwa (2016):
  - One-on-one contact
  - Synchronous sessions
  - Active learning strategies

# Discussion

- What are some challenges that you have faced in the classroom when teaching research methods online?
- What are some ways that you facilitate student learning and skill acquisition in research methods?

# References

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Thanks for Coming!!

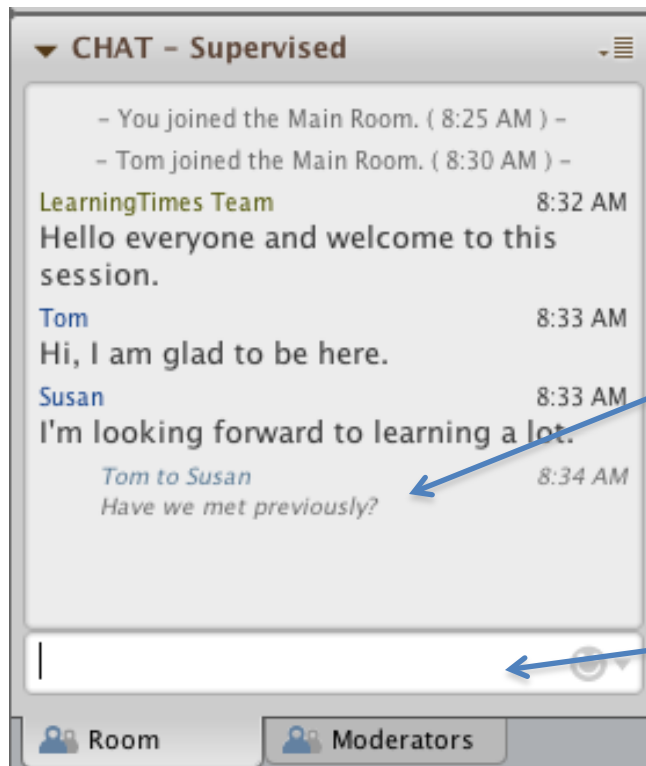




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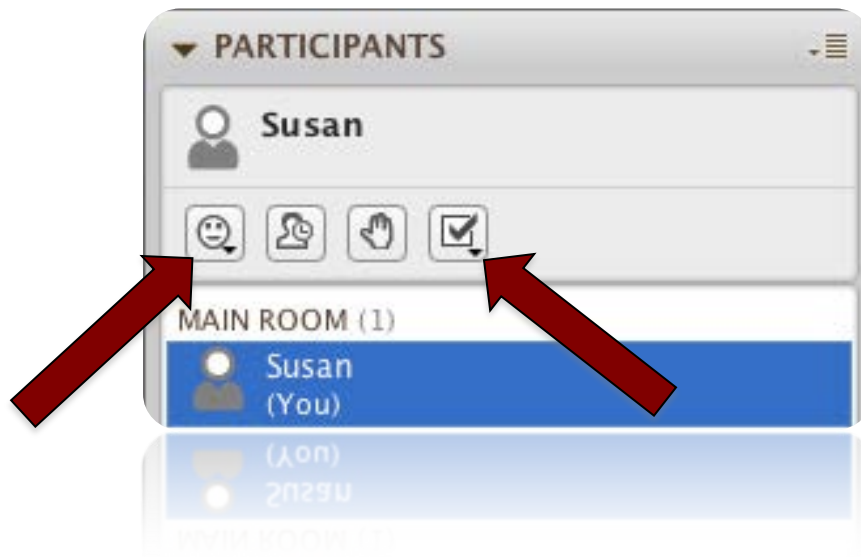
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