

Before going virtual... 10 tips for being equity minded

These challenging times require that we become increasingly more equity minded. Equity is about giving people what they need to be successful and moves us forward by rejecting the notion that one size fits all. Here are a few tips to get you thinking about equity.

1. Don't make assumptions about what students have access to in their homes or elsewhere. You may want to consider conducting a quick survey, sending an email, or finding other ways to simply ask.
2. In preparing for virtual or other types of learning, consider this: if your students didn't sign up for virtual learning maybe there is a reason. Consider giving students more options. Picking up packets, mailing materials, or asking students to make suggestions.
3. Think about ways to ask students to partner or group-up. Student-to-student transfer of information is invaluable in difficult times. Be sure to share best practices for working in groups and teams.
4. Take this opportunity to remind students about the value of community and that we should all demonstrate an ethic of care for one another.
5. Proactively reach out to students who may be withdrawn, isolated, or disconnected. Your actions may be the lifeline they need to succeed.
6. Check in with students who may fall through the cracks or fail to keep up.
7. Check your roster, if a student hasn't participated, now may be a good time to reach out for a wellness check.
8. Classrooms are not culturally neutral. Use this time to think of ways you can structure your classroom to be more inclusive.
9. Be on the lookout for bias harassment, and discrimination.
10. If you see something, say something, or better yet, do something.

For more tips on being equity minded, contact Dr. Vanessa Lopez, associate professor California State University, Monterey Bay.