PARTICIPATION IS THE "SECRET SAUCE" OF E-LEARNING: OBSERVATIONS AND STRATEGIES FROM THE FRONT LINES.

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ABSTRACT

The What, Why, Who, How, Where, and When of student interactive participation in online classes is discussed from the perspective of a business professor who herself was an early adopter of online pedagogy. With 25 years of online teaching experience at the undergraduate, masters and doctoral levels, the author shares her experiences and strategies and makes recommendations for those who might be newer to online learning. The author, who has used everything from HTML to WebCT to Blackboard to Moodle, posits that regular, robust student interaction is the "secret sauce" to creating an engaging, vibrant learning community.

Keywords: *online classes, student engagement, learning community, participation, interaction*