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# The process of building learning communities in an online course

Abdelmalak, M.

## Abstract:

This paper discusses the processes I utilize to build learning communities in my online courses. Drawing on research literature on how best to design and conduct an online course that fosters community among learners who are physically separated, I use five main processes to build learning communities in my online courses. These processes are 1) building a learning community from the first day of the class, 2) using Web 2.0 technologies, 3) using threaded discussions, 4) pairing students in activities, and 5) encouraging collaborative activity. Intentionally using these processes has the potential to build and foster learning communities in online environments.

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