EXPLO ELEVATE
INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS COOPERATIVE

AGILE DESIGN: Making Courses Work Online and Face-to-Face

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OUTLINE

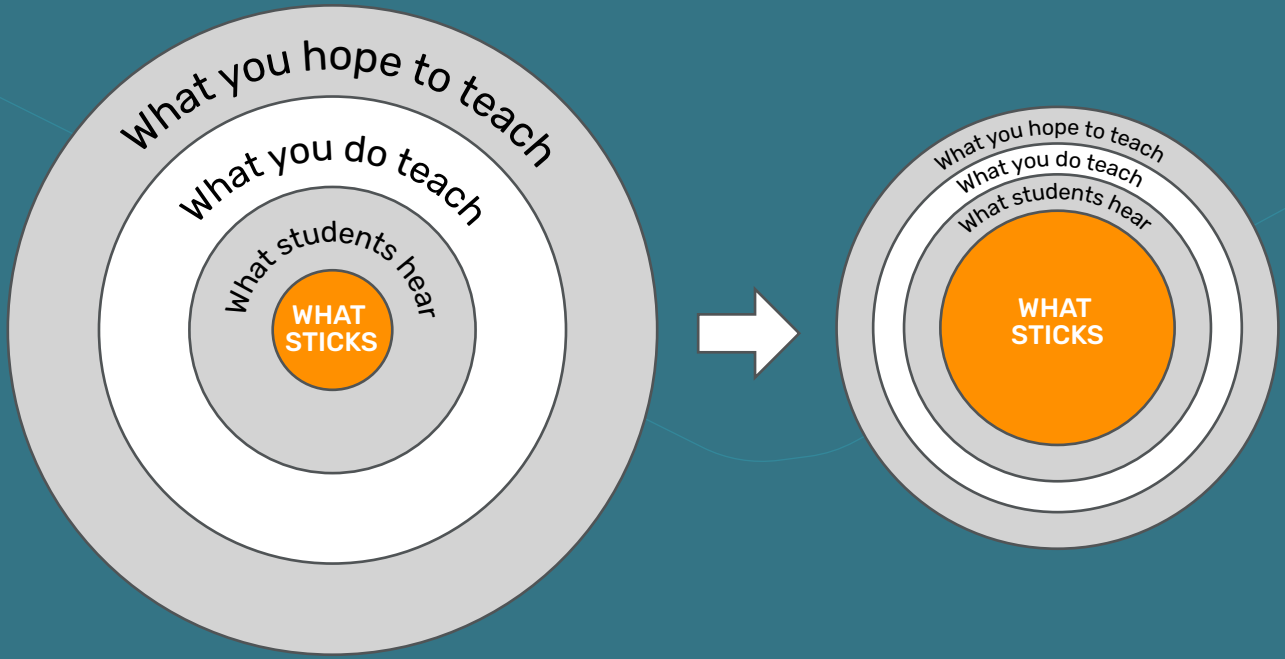
1- What do we want students to learn?
2- How are we spending our time?
3- How are we structuring our teaching?

1- What do we want students to learn?

This is an opportunity to rethink everything we do in our classrooms.

Really ask, “What’s important?”

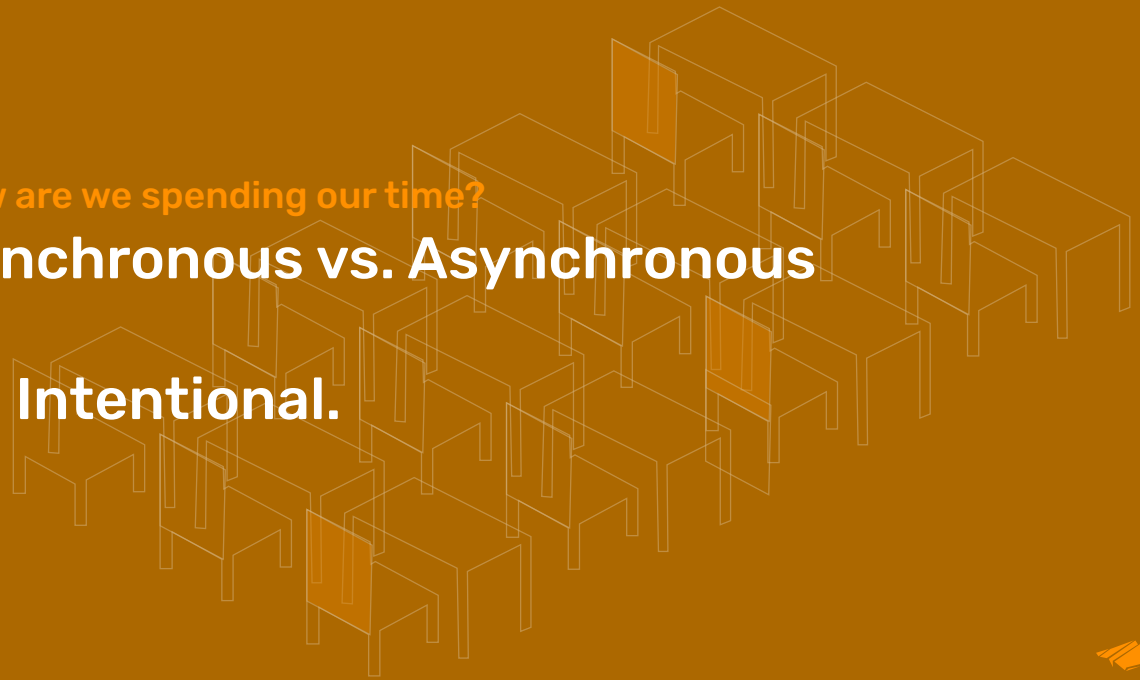
1- What do we want students to learn?



2- How are we spending our time?

Synchronous vs. Asynchronous

Be Intentional.



2- How are we spending our time?

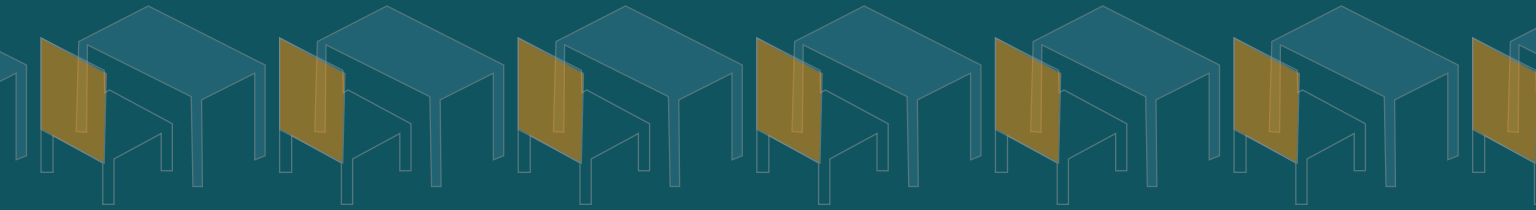
	Synchronous	Asynchronous
When?	Discussing less complex issues Getting acquainted Planning tasks	Reflecting on complex issues When synchronous meetings cannot be scheduled
Why?	Planning tasks Students more committed/ motivated because a quick response is expected.	Students have more time to reflect Sender doesn't expect immediate response
How?	Instant-messaging, video-conferencing, chat, face-to-face	Emails, discussion boards, blogs, podcasts, videos

Asynchronous & Synchronous E-Learning, Stefan Hrastinski. Educause Quarterly, Nov 2008.

2- How are we spending our time?

	Synchronous	Asynchronous
Example	Students expected to work in groups and may be advised to use instant messaging as support for getting to know each other, exchanging ideas, and planning tasks. Teacher who wants to present content in simplified way might present.	Students meant to reflect individually on course topics and may be asked to keep a blog. Students expected to share reflections and critically assess their peers' ideas May participate in online discussion boards

Asynchronous & Synchronous E-Learning, Stefan Hrastinski. Educause Quarterly, Nov 2008.



3- How are we structuring our teaching?

Don’t focus on LMS and tech tools.

Focus on consistent structures.

3- How are we structuring our teaching?

Students need to use cognitive load for learning, not finding.

In-person structures we don't even think about:

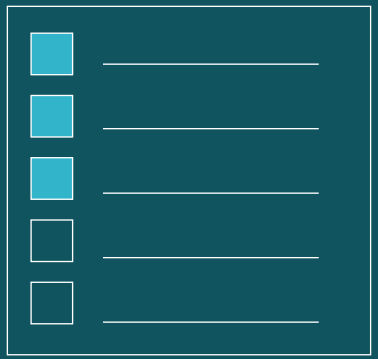
Students know...

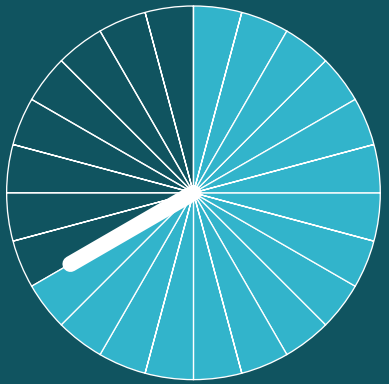
- where to sit
- where homework goes
- how to organize their desk
- where to look
- how to engage
- how to read body language
- when to talk
- how to interact with peers
- how long a task should take
- how to use the tools
- what's coming next
- who else is working
- how to ask for help
- who could help them
- how they are keeping up
- what they should be doing

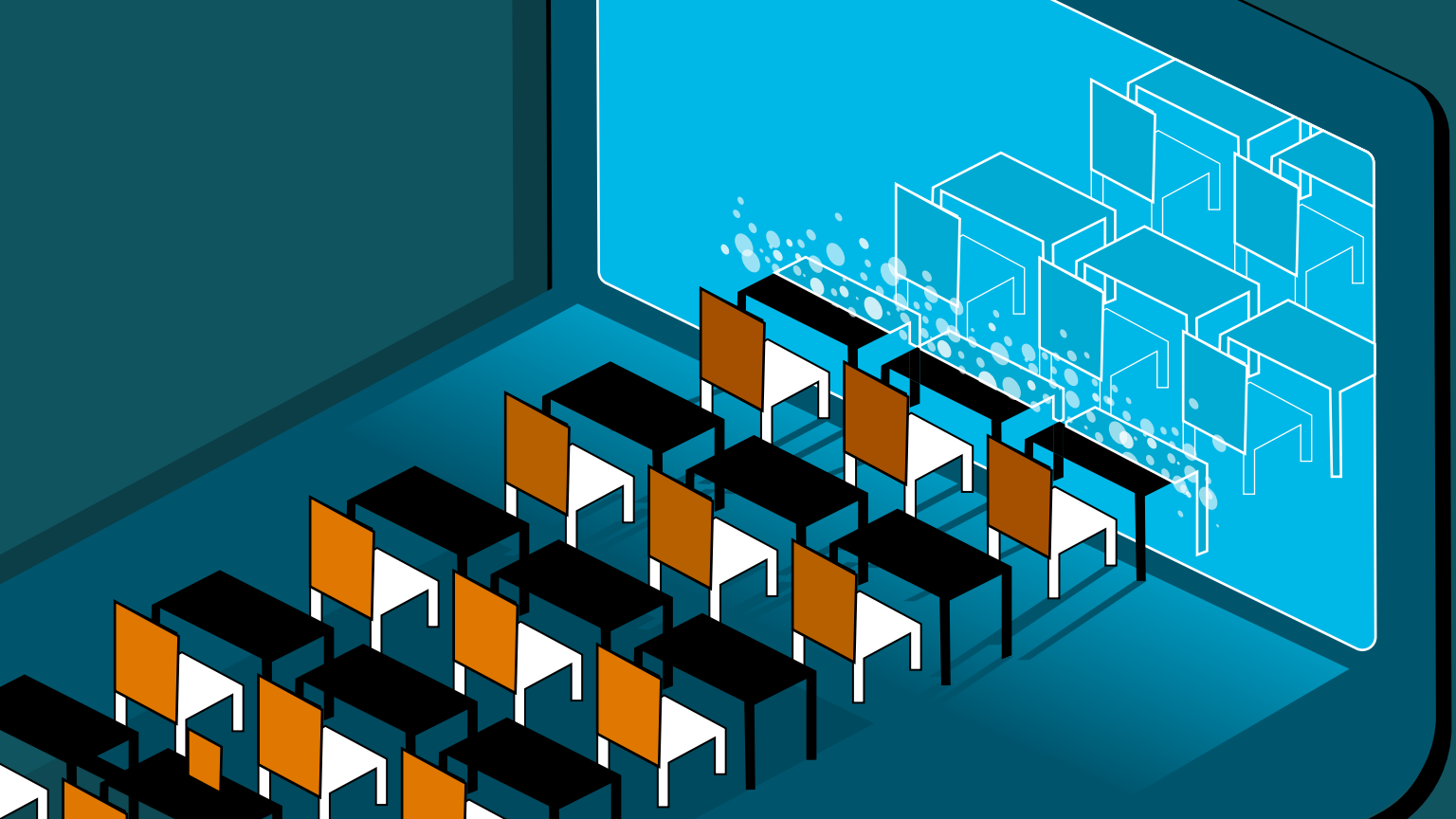
3- How are we structuring our teaching?

For each assignment:

Set clear expectations + micro deadlines





MAKE FEEDBACK MANAGEABLE

- Stagger deadlines
- Peer to peer
- Automate (some of) it
- Good feedback on select pieces