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# I WANT TO PERSONALIZE MY COURSE.

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A combination of text, media, and your personality can help convert a Blackboard course to a personalized digital classroom. Focus on infusing your teaching style into the course to reduce it from getting lost in translation.

## Best Practices

Peer feedback encourages students to do their best, as they know they will be critiqued by one another. It will also help them think more critically about what constitutes effective speech. It helps to assign each student to evaluate a particular person's work.

1. **Build a personal introduction** beyond a few simple sentences. Include a few photographs, descriptions of hobbies and interests, or even a welcome video to increase your digital personality.
2. **Be yourself!** Don't be afraid to infuse your writing with warmth and personality. This is an opportunity to portray your enthusiasm and support for your students' learning and success.
3. **Recording yourself** whenever possible is a great way to capture your expertise, personality, and empathy. Use a web-conferencing tool such as WebEx ([PDF Tutorial](#)) or Blackboard Collaborate ([Video Tutorial](#); [Web Tutorial](#)) to record a video for your students. Video isn't just for recorded lectures; use this technique for weekly announcements or assignment feedback. Dr. J.V. Boettcher (2019) notes in the [Ten Best Practices for Teaching Online](#) that students state "the best online faculty... show their presence multiple times a week, and at best, daily."

## Additional Resources

- [Seven Easy Ways to Personalize Your Online Course \(Article\)](#)
- [The Key To Teaching Online? Rapport! \(Webinar\)](#)
- [Creating a Welcome Video \(Tip Sheet\)](#)