Teaching interdisciplinary modules online can be an uphill battle but it offers the opportunity to add a comment to engage students, spark interest and keep them on track. One of the first steps to being a strong motivator online is to project an image of care and, of course, to act on it.

Instructors must try to connect with the students online in a personal and warm manner. It is important for institutions to project an image of care and concern, and for students to perceive their instructors as personable individuals who can connect with them.

Here are a few essential lessons in generating student interest in interdisciplinary modules online:

1. The purpose and value of learning should be communicated in an informal manner. Teaching interdisciplinary modules online can be cold and impersonal. It is important for instructors to explain how and why the module is important, and to help students see the purpose and value of the module.

2. Students should be given feedback on a regular basis. Students should be given feedback on a regular basis. This is evidenced by remarks I have heard from students, such as: “I simply wanted to barely pass this module, but seeing you made me work so hard so that I can learn well, I feel that I must work just as hard not to let you down.”

3. Students should be given an opportunity to engage with peers. This is especially important when teaching online. It is important for instructors to encourage students to engage with each other and to provide opportunities for them to do so.

4. Personal stories of how former students’ work experiences have proved very successful, increasing initial take-up rates and giving current students a strong positive first impression, they will be more open and receptive to learning when they enter into the semester begins.

5. Students were won over by expressions of care and concern for their learning, and fully engaged in their learning. This is evidenced by remarks I have heard from students, such as: “I simply wanted to barely pass this module, but seeing you made me work so hard so that I can learn well, I feel that I must work just as hard not to let you down.”

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By following these essential lessons in generating student interest in interdisciplinary modules online, instructors can improve the online learning experience and make it more enjoyable and engaging for students.