

CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Helpful Hints for a Great Nomination Packet

EOTA Awards

Global Learning Experiences

Nominating a course for the Global Learning Experiences award is a chance to highlight how teaching can expand students' worldviews and prepare them for meaningful engagement in a diverse, interconnected world. Here are five tips to help you craft a strong and compelling nomination:

1. Showcase intentional integration.

Describe how global perspectives are thoughtfully woven into the course's content, assignments, and learning outcomes. Strong nominations demonstrate that global learning is not an add-on, but a core part of the course design.

2. Highlight intercultural impact.

Explain how the course fosters intercultural competence and global awareness. Include examples of how students engage with diverse perspectives, cultures, or global issues in ways that are authentic, reflective, and transformative.

3. Provide context and evidence.

Help reviewers understand the significance of the course's global elements. Use data, student reflections, or course artifacts to show how the experience deepens learning and prepares students to navigate global complexity.

4. Be specific and illustrative.

Use concrete examples—such as assignments, discussions, or projects—that reflect the depth and quality of global integration. Specificity helps jurors assess the authenticity and impact of the learning experience.

5. Clarify contributions.

If the course was developed or taught collaboratively, clearly describe each contributor's role. Recognize shared efforts while highlighting the nominee's unique contributions to global learning.

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Instructional Innovation

This award celebrates bold, research-informed teaching that sparks curiosity and creativity. If you're nominating a course for Instructional Innovation, here are five tips to help you craft a compelling and competitive packet:

1. Emphasize originality and intention.

Describe how the course design is both imaginative and grounded in best practices. Highlight what makes the instructional approach unique and how it was intentionally crafted to support student learning.

2. Showcase student-centered strategies.

Explain how the course fosters curiosity, collaboration, and creativity. Include examples of how students are encouraged to explore ideas, take intellectual risks, and engage in meaningful, real-world learning experiences.

3. Provide evidence of impact.

Use student feedback, performance data, or course artifacts to demonstrate how the innovative design enhances learning. If possible, show how the course has evolved or influenced others through adoption or adaptation.

4. Be specific and illustrative.

Describe particular assignments, activities, or assessments that reflect the course's innovative nature. Specific examples help jurors understand how creativity and rigor are balanced in practice.

5. Clarify contributions.

If the course was developed collaboratively, clearly define each person's role. Highlight the nominee's unique contributions to the course's innovation and effectiveness.

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Relationship-Rich Teaching Strategies

This award honors those who bring people together—creating spaces where colleagues This award honors courses that center human connection as a foundation for learning. If you're nominating a course for Relationship-Rich Teaching Strategies, here are five tips to help you create a strong and heartfelt nomination:

1. Emphasize intentional design for connection.

Describe how the course is purposefully structured to foster meaningful relationships. Highlight strategies that create “inescapable opportunities” for students to connect with instructors, peers, and mentors in the online environment.

2. Illustrate care and belonging.

Explain how students experience care, encouragement, and trust throughout the course. Use examples that show how the learning environment helps students feel seen, valued, and supported—both academically and personally.

3. Provide evidence of impact.

Include student feedback, reflections, or course data that demonstrate how relationship-rich practices influence engagement, motivation, or growth. If possible, show how these strategies have evolved or been sustained over time.

4. Be specific and illustrative.

Describe particular moments, assignments, or interactions that reflect the course's commitment to connection and community. Specific examples help jurors understand the depth and authenticity of the relationships fostered.

5. Clarify contributions.

If the course was developed or facilitated by a team, clearly define each person's role. Highlight the nominee's unique contributions to cultivating a relationship-rich learning experience.

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Large Enrollment Strategies

This award recognizes the creativity and complexity involved in teaching large online courses with excellence. If you're nominating a course for Large Enrollment Strategies, here are five tips to help you build a strong and strategic nomination:

1. Define “large” in your context.

Clarify how the course meets the award's definition of large enrollment (2x or more the max class size for your discipline). Include enrollment numbers and describe the instructional structure—whether it's led by one instructor or supported by TAs.

2. Emphasize scalable design.

Describe how the course is intentionally designed to support large numbers of students without sacrificing quality. Highlight strategies for engagement, feedback, and assessment that work effectively at scale.

3. Showcase technology integration.

Explain how digital tools are used to enhance learning, streamline communication, and personalize the student experience. Be specific about how technology supports both instructional goals and student needs.

4. Provide evidence of success.

Include student outcomes, feedback, or course analytics that demonstrate the course's effectiveness. If possible, show how the course has evolved to become more sustainable, equitable, or impactful over time.

5. Clarify contributions.

If the course involves TAs or collaborators, clearly define each person's role. Highlight the nominee's leadership in designing and delivering a high-quality learning experience for a large and diverse student population.

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Quality Course Materials

This award recognizes the behind-the-scenes excellence that makes online learning seamless and effective. If you're nominating a course for Quality Course Materials, here are five tips to help you build a strong and detailed nomination:

1. Emphasize clarity and structure.

Describe how the course is organized in a way that is intuitive and easy to navigate. Highlight how the structure supports student learning and reduces cognitive load.

2. Showcase accessibility and compliance.

Explain how the course meets accessibility standards (e.g., captions, alt text, screen reader compatibility). If applicable, mention any Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles or tools used to ensure equitable access.

3. Highlight visual and technical quality.

Include examples of well-produced materials—such as videos, graphics, or interactive elements—that are current, visually appealing, and function smoothly across platforms.

4. Provide evidence of effectiveness.

Use student feedback, course analytics, or peer reviews to show how the materials contribute to a positive learning experience. If updates have been made over time, describe how they improved usability or clarity.

5. Clarify contributions.

If the course materials were developed with support from instructional designers or media specialists, define each person's role. Emphasize the nominee's leadership in ensuring the quality and coherence of the course content.

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Student Engagement

This award honors courses that inspire students to connect, think critically, and take ownership of their learning. If you're nominating a course for Student Engagement, here are five tips to help you create a compelling and well-aligned nomination:

1. Highlight interaction and ownership.

Describe how students engage with the course content, the instructor, and each other. Emphasize strategies that encourage students to be self-directed, take initiative, and participate meaningfully in their learning journey.

2. Emphasize motivation and critical thinking.

Explain how the course design fosters curiosity, deep thinking, and sustained engagement. Include examples of activities or assignments that challenge students intellectually and promote reflection.

3. Provide evidence of engagement.

Use student feedback, participation data, or course analytics to demonstrate how students are actively involved. If possible, include examples of student work or reflections that show ownership and connection.

4. Be specific and illustrative.

Describe specific strategies—such as discussion formats, peer collaboration, or interactive tools—that promote consistent engagement. Specific examples help jurors understand how engagement is built and sustained.

5. Clarify contributions.

If the course was developed or facilitated by a team, clearly define each person's role. Highlight the nominee's unique contributions to fostering a dynamic and student-centered learning environment.