Classroom Teaching vs Online Teaching

➢ Use technology for the basics of classroom functioning. Pick one (Zoom, Skype, WeChat) that is commonly used by your students. Don't try something different at this point. That just adds to the chaos.

➢ Create shorter deadlines and check-ins. Without a classroom, people will procrastinate or get distracted. Have them respond about smaller segments so you can see they are moving forward.

➢ Use lectures. This format works fine and is not too different whether you are lecturing in the class or online.

➢ When you are online, it will not be possible to "read the room" the way you can when you are with students. As a substitute for this, use an app (doodle poll is one; there are several) that allows you to ask a question. You can set up the question to ask students to choose one option or several from a list. Some apps allow students to see how the class "voted." This can help straighten out someone's error if they see everyone else has chosen differently.

Also, if you ask a question about essential content and the whole class responds with wrong answers, then you know you have to go back and review the material with them. (Listing some key questions to ask would be part of the preparation for each class.)

➢ Use the central platform or vehicle that your school provides (Blackboard, Zoom, Schoology, whatever) as the ONE LOCATION where students can check for assignments and submit them. These platforms have calendars where teachers can fill out assignments, place quizzes, and supply resources. Having ONE LOCATION for students to submit work keeps things organized for the teacher.

➢ Talk to other teachers. If there are several classes using the same lesson plans, you may be able to group larger numbers of students together and rotate the class time lectures among the teachers.

➢ Triage. Keep the essential needs of the course in mind and focus hard on those.