Ontario Extend – Teacher for Learning Module  
Holly Ashbourne

August 19, 2020  
Thought Vectors Activity

Patch 19: Be Kind Online

“I tend to work with faculty tasked with the development and / or delivery of fully online courses. When I follow-up with faculty after they’ve taught an online course for the first time, I notice that regardless of subject area, a few key themes emerge. Here are three concerns that I hear from online instructors time and again:

* Students are far more demanding and even blatantly rude within the online environment when compared to in-class
* Students assume the online course is a “bird course” and are upset when they learn that the time required to successfully complete an online course is as much or more than the time required in a fully face-to-face environment
* Faculty strongly suspect that online students are engaging in various types of academic dishonesty to a greater degree within online courses than in-class” (O’Reilly, 2017)

This passage intrigued me. I taught online for a few years and I did not run into these problems. One takeaway from these concerns is that expectations need to be established at the start of class. Expectations are important to establish and clear expectations help students to succeed from day 1, or else students will, of course, struggle.



Figure [Step Up](https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1502101872923-d48509bff386?ixlib=rb-1.2.1&ixid=eyJhcHBfaWQiOjEyMDd9&auto=format&fit=crop&w=1778&q=80) by [Jukan Tateisi](https://unsplash.com/@tateisimikito?utm_source=unsplash&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=creditCopyText) on [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com/s/photos/stairs?utm_source=unsplash&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=creditCopyText). Licensed for reuse under the [Unsplash License](https://unsplash.com/license).

Another takeaway from this passage that I had was to try and understand where the student is coming from. COVID-19, personal or life problems, etc. affect our students just like they affect us. I think that providing students the supports they need to address these challenges will help overcome them.



Figure [When You Need a Helping Hand](https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1501770118606-b1d640526693?ixlib=rb-1.2.1&ixid=eyJhcHBfaWQiOjEyMDd9&auto=format&fit=crop&w=1650&q=80) Photo by [Neil Thomas](https://unsplash.com/@finleydesign?utm_source=unsplash&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=creditCopyText) on [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com/s/photos/support?utm_source=unsplash&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=creditCopyText). Licensed for reuse under the [Unsplash License](https://unsplash.com/license).