



Phillipp Frank's autobiography of Albert Einstein shares an anecdote of his response to the question, "What is the speed of sound?" Einstein replied, "I don't know. I don't burden my memory with such facts that I can easily find in any textbook. It is not so very important for a person to learn facts. For that he does not really need a college. He can learn them from books. **The value of an education in a liberal arts college is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think something that cannot be learned from textbooks.**"

2021 federal regulations state that interaction in distance education courses must:

- Be with an instructor and initiated by the instructor
- Be scheduled and predictable
- Be academic in nature and relevant to the course.

Some suggestions to help achieve RSI:

1. Set clear expectations on your syllabus for timeliness of your responses e.g., emails within 24 hours and assignments within a week
2. Establish a communication plan and let students know (RSI says "predictable"), e.g., if you typically post feedback on Fridays; also use preset announcements to go out automatically at strategic points
3. Actively post weekly updates, check ins, summaries of class progress or discussions
4. Hold synchronous online office hours, extra help, or review sessions on Zoom
5. Create and provide custom recordings (video or audio) introducing, explaining, or contextualizing course content—but you must incorporate some student interaction with those recordings; use Yula to create videos with embedded questions since student responses go right into gradebook
6. Provide timely, personalized, detailed feedback on student work beyond just assigning grades, which might include written comments, detailed rubrics, audio or video notes, or (with written student permission) sample student work for modeling
7. Incorporate weekly or biweekly discussions and actively facilitate; some could be to ask for feedback on most difficult concepts in the unit, which elements of class are most helpful thus far, what study techniques work for them, etc.
8. Incorporate some guided pair or group work so students can develop collaborative skills and build support systems within the class
9. Use Brightspace survey to collect midsemester or five-week point feedback