Andy Bennetts, President of Interactive Learning, shared some methods, valuable tools, and specific strategies for active student engagement using the tool Turning Point during the webinar. His presentation slides can be found here: https://bit.ly/307Ur8w

At the beginning of his talk, he emphasized that this period could be seen as a journey. Therefore, as teachers, we should find one new thing, learn it, experiment with it and should not be afraid to fail. Instead, we need to choose to adopt or abandon it and repeat the same cycle if necessary. One thing that needs to be remembered is that this period is stressful for all parties involved, including learners, instructors, parents etc.

He also pointed out that challenges are not limited to the medium but there are others such as environmental distractions, online distraction, social isolation, online presentations being boring, technical issues and substantive material. Therefore, he suggested that we should be realistic with our expectations and keep a positive outlook.

The highlights from the presentation are as follows:

- Six powerful student engagement strategies are;
  1. multiple methods of communication (e.g. school’s LMS)
  2. teacher being available at offered times (i.e. maintain boundaries, hold office hours)
  3. facilitate and listen to feedback (e.g. formal & informal, Turning Point questions, Google Forms, messaging)
4. use virtual icebreakers

5. use of videos for different purposes (serves multiple functions; make sure to trim, use to break up a lesson, introduce a new concept)

6. appoint student leaders (allow to lead every class or intermittent, give clear directions, guide but give them room)

● Six resources that every virtual instructor needs:

1. ZoomIt
2. videos
3. hyperlinks
4. document camera
5. casting teacher device
6. a second monitor

● Andy’s Tiers of Instruction using Turning Point
  - synchronous in-person: virtual TEACHING
  - synchronous virtual: REVIEW anywhere
  - asynchronous virtual. TEST self-paced

● F.I.T. Model of Instruction to maximize interactive lesson development
  - Formative assessment that directs your teaching
  - Instruction that reaches all learners
  - Testing that is embedded in the learning experience

*Operational Question types for F.I.T. Model of Instruction:*
  - Self assessment questions
  - Focusing questions
  - Reinforcement questions
  - Application / Analysis questions
  - Scaffolding questions
  - Meta-cognitive questions
- Evaluative questions
- Reflection questions
- Transfer of learning questions

- Tips for leveraging Competitions and Messaging for virtual instruction:

  Polls feature in Turning Point can be used to form teams in competitions. The tool creates teams according to the poll responses.

Some examples of these teams are:

1. Participant Leaders
2. Team Score
3. Team MVP (Most Valuable Player)
4. Fastest Responders

- Turning Point tips and tricks

  Turning point is an online participation platform which enables:
  - real time interaction using web based polling
  - teachers to schedule asynchronous trainings and homework
- assessing learner comprehension
- tracking and evaluating progress with detailed reports
- creating assessment using a quiz generator tool
- an interactive whiteboard for student engagement

You may access the platform using the link:
https://www.turningtechnologies.com/turningpoint/