Establishing Teacher Presence in Online Learning

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Teacher presence in student online discussions is a debated issue. Some research shows that teacher presence is positively related to student satisfaction with online learning. Teacher presence serves as a significant predictor of student perceived learning and course satisfaction. Low level of teacher presence negatively impacts student satisfaction with learning. Instructors are desired to actively participate in student discussions. Other research argues that instructors should restrain their presence in student discussions to encourage student voice because instructors are often viewed as authoritarian figures. High teacher presence might diminish student interaction with each other in discussions. This presentation demonstrates how to balance teacher presence in online learning. While instructors keep low teacher presence to promote student-centered discussions, strategies of high teacher presence should be developed to mitigate its negative impact and to increase student satisfaction with learning.