Making small, actionable changes for big results

1. Design your course with the end in mind
   - Determine what you want students to walk away with at the end of your course (skills, knowledge, etc.), and build backwards from there.

2. Provide multiple opportunities for engagement
   - Break major assignments into manageable pieces (chunks).
   - Use small, thoughtful, and often transforming tasks.
   - Present developmental feedback through multiple means.

3. Use short, personable videos
   - Videos should be a minimum of 4 minutes.
   - Online lectures videos into smaller parts.
   - Include captions for accessibility.
   - Be personable; it helps with engagement and retention.

5. Provide timely and effective feedback
   - Be specific about what issues students need to improve on.
   - Include clear statements on how students can improve.
   - Provide written and verbal feedback about beyond the test.

6. Foster student success and persistence
   - Send targeted emails to those in need of extra help, particularly with tests or major assignments.
   - Have students develop a goal plan for success.
   - Use anxiety quizzes to guide students to reframe mastery of concepts before they move on.

7. Create autonomy
   - Allow many students autonomous, but structured opportunities (options) for them to exercise autonomy.
   - Let students choose their own path (e.g., course, assignments, etc.).

8. Connect course content to existing knowledge
   - Connections can be academic, professional, personal, or experience-based.
   - Have students reflect on connections between course content and what they know (or thought they knew).

9. Continue to grow yourself
   - Look for faculty workshops on online teaching.
   - Ask colleagues to your course as you build your experience and expertise in online teaching.
   - Try new things; even if they don’t work well the first time, try it.

Infographic created by Valdosta State University Office of Small Teaching Online, Fall 2019.