

Overcoming Five Challenges of Teaching in a Hybrid Classroom

Gary Bradley, PhD; Stella Bradley, MaED; Jeannie Larrabee, MaEd

Introduction

Were you, like many of us, teaching your way through a good school year until the middle of March 2020? Overnight, students were quarantined at home, and teachers had “virtual” students.

Teachers in public and private schools throughout the U.S., and in many other parts of the world, had to adjust quickly to a Zoom platform and other online teaching tools and strategies.

Like all good teachers, educators in Adventist schools want their students to experience academic success, so we all rallied to the occasion and worked hard to provide the best online education possible.

Five Challenges

The authors address five challenges and potential solutions to teaching in a hybrid classroom:

Challenge No. 1: *How can teachers purposefully include their online students who often have trouble hearing what is said and seeing the presentations (like PowerPoints and videos) that are occurring in a hybrid classroom?*

Challenge No. 2: *What additional lesson preparations will teachers need to make?*

Challenge No. 3: *How can teachers help students overcome technology barriers?*

Challenge No. 4: *How can teachers make effective use of Zoom resources?*

Challenge No. 5: *How can teachers assess students in a hybrid environment?*

The True Educator

“The true educator, keeping in view what his pupils may become, will recognize the value of the material upon which he is working. He will take a personal interest in each pupil and will see to develop all his powers.”

Ellen G. White, *Education* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press, 1903), 232. For more on this topic, read chapter 26 in this book entitled “Methods of Teaching.”

Confidence to Face the Challenges

We are living in unprecedented times that offer challenges that teachers have never been asked to face before. Yet, we can be confident that God will not forsake His teachers who are leading His lambs in both academic and spiritual growth. Jesus says, “Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20. The *World English Bible* is a 1997 revision of the *American Standard Version* of the Holy Bible, first published in 1901. It is in the Public Domain

Notes and References

1. These steps for setting up the virtual classroom were compiled by Obediah Groft, chemistry and science teacher at Collegedale Academy, and presented by Stella Bradley.
2. Provide students with guidelines for using photos, such as only posting photos for which they have permission to post or material that is not protected by copyright.
3. Zoom Tutorial, “Virtual Background” (2020): <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/210707503-Virtual-background>.
4. _____, “Scheduling a Meeting” (2020): <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362413-How-Do-I-Schedule-Meetings->
5. “I Spy” is a popular guessing game that can be incorporated into a lesson plan. The strategy prompts learners to think critically and problem-solve by finding hidden clues throughout the lesson. For more see [Gayle Berthiaume](#), “I Spy Lesson Plan,” *Scholastic* (2020): <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/i-spy-lesson-plan/> and Jean Marzollo, “I Spy Teaching Guide,” (2020): <http://jeanmarzollo.com/ISPY/TeachingGuide.html>.
6. _____, “Recording a Zoom Meeting” (2020): <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/203741855-Cloud-recording>.
7. _____, “Muting and Unmuting Participants in a Meeting” (2020): <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/203435537-Mute-All-And-Unmute-All>.
8. _____, “Waiting Room” (2020): <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115000332726-Waiting-Room>.
9. _____, “Sharing Your Screen” (2020): <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362153-Sharing-your-screen>.
10. Matthew 28:20. The *World English Bible* is a 1997 revision of the *American Standard Version* of the Holy Bible, first published in 1901. It is in the Public Domain.
11. Ellen G. White, *Education* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press, 1903), 232. For more on this topic, read chapter 26 in this book entitled “Methods of Teaching.”



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For more on this topic, see the conversation with the authors about “Protecting Students Online” at <https://vimeo.com/556026594>.

