

# GUEST SPEAKERS IN ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE COURSES:

## USING A VIDEO DISCUSSION BOARD TO BUILD CONNECTIONS

for a digital version of this handout: [tinyurl.com/guestNY22](https://tinyurl.com/guestNY22)

### PURPOSE:

Some instructors think that teaching asynchronously makes it impossible to invite a guest speaker to class. A pandemic-era teaching strategy in my course has convinced me that not only is it possible to bring in a guest speaker asynchronously but, with some considerations, it can result in an engaging and connective learning experience between a guest speaker and students.

### CONSIDERATIONS

Before a guest speaker engages with the class, students should be given substantive background information.

Students receive two deadlines, one by which they must post their question and a second deadline, after the speaker's engagement, by which the students must respond.

The second deadline for students to reply is important so that students come back to hear what the guest speaker has to say.

Students' comfort with being on camera is always a consideration so I offer students the option to pixelate, use stickers, point their camera at an inanimate object, use a puppet, or whatever is most comfortable for them.



### Flipgrid Practice

- Join code:  
[flipgrid.com/838d148c](https://flipgrid.com/838d148c)
- Password: newyork22
- Guide:  
[info.flipgrid.com/getting-started.html#educator](https://info.flipgrid.com/getting-started.html#educator)

### Resources

Blog post (how-to):  
<https://dearbornhub.net/?p=1545>

Sample Assignment:  
[tinyurl.com/SampGuest](https://tinyurl.com/SampGuest)

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