Where to Start for Online Course Instruction A First-Time Faculty Focus

Dr. Kerrie Douglas, Purdue University Assistant Professor of Engineering Education, shares her expertise on ways to best structure online courses, for the first-time faculty experience and experienced faculty wanting to make a change to their current online courses. Hint: Talk to your students to find out what tools they are already using online.

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How you structure the course can determine whether or not it's passive, whether or not it's a lonely experience, and whether or not it's at the same quality of learning as what you would do in person. And it's really how it's done and the thought that goes into connecting with student. And so if I were talking to a faculty member who had never done anything online or everything they've done with students has been in a very physical space, the first thing I would suggest to them is to think about what it is that they want their students to learn and how they know that they learn these things, and then how to creatively figure it out in an online medium. That would probably include talking to students and finding out what tools for collaboration and social networking are they currently using, and how can they use those to engage with each other around content?