PC 103 University Skills
Gathering Agenda for Week 09
Discovering Resources

Gathering Purposes

- Making connections as an online student
- Review the resources available to you as an online student
- Identify resources for specific challenges

Preparation

- For *face-to-face Gatherings*, arrive early to setup the room, prepare any visual aids, and greet students as they arrive.
- For *virtual Gatherings*, start the meeting early, share your screen with a message welcoming them to the gathering and letting them know you will start soon.
    - When the Gathering Agenda asks that students meet in small groups, use Breakout Rooms.
    - When the Gathering Agenda asks you to display things on "the board," you can use the whiteboard.

Document Preparation:

- For *face-to-face Gatherings*, print the case studies at the bottom of this document and cut them out so each scenario is on one slip of paper.
- For *virtual Gatherings,* email all of the case studies to everyone prior to the gathering.

Min.	Activities		Teaching Tips
Welcome and Devotional			
10	Welcome	Welcome, announcements, and housekeeping	
	Hymn or Thought, Prayer	Please sing one or two verses of a hymn. If you meet with a virtual gathering, the lead student or another student should be invited to share a brief spiritual thought. A volunteer will then give an opening prayer.	
	BYU-Pathway Worldwide Devotional	Students were asked to watch the BYU-Pathway Worldwide devotional this week, as contained in the course. They should have done this prior to the gathering. As a class discuss the devotional using the discussion questions provided in the course	Look up the questions in advance so you are ready.
Student Success Discussion			
15	Next Steps Reminder	Remind students to be working on the Next Steps portion of the course. This includes the application and graduation planning. See this week's module called "Next Steps" in the course.	
	Read and Discuss	Read about Diogo Bezerra to see what he did to overcome the challenges he faced as he worked to complete a degree.	

		Then discuss the questions that follow. Click here to share/read the article. If that doesn't work, you can share the text below called "Blessings in Brazil" **Discussion Questions**: • Diogo had this to say, "I know that God exists because of my testimony but also [because of] the support and all the spiritual help He gave me throughout a difficult time as a new business owner. He helped me a lot by just giving me the right people to help me and to support me." Diogo was able to discover the resources and support that he had available to him. What resources have you discovered that will help you in your educational journey? • Diogo returned from his mission with an increased desire to help other people, which led him to become a service missionary for BYU-Pathway Worldwide. How have you been inspired to help others during your time in the PathwayConnect Program? What resources could you share with others? • Just like Diogo had God's support in accomplishing His goals, so do you! In what ways have you felt supported in your educational goals?	
Student Skills Discussion			
20	Share	For one to two minutes, tell the class about one big thing you learned in this week's Student Skills.	Come prepared to share your 1-2 minute introduction.
	Discuss	Online learning is attractive because of its flexibility and convenience. However, this can result in feeling isolated and alone as an online student. Discuss the following questions: 1. How have you felt isolated as an online student? 2. What can you do as an online student to feel connected to the university, to other students or to your instructor?	
	Write and discuss	Have a student read the following quote: "We can press forward in our daily lives with heavenly help. Through the Savior's Atonement we can receive capacity and 'strength beyond [our] own' ("Lord, I Would Follow Thee," Hymns, no. 220)." —Elder David A. Bednar, April 2014 General Conference Invite the class to write their answers to the writing prompt below. Write for 60-90 seconds. Then discuss the questions that follow.	

		Writing prompt: ● What is one thing a person can do to find strength beyond their own? **Discussion questions.** ● What did you write about? Why? ● Why is it important to know that you don't need to do it all by yourself? ● How can being ready to seek and receive heavenly help also help someone feel happier?	By having students talk about resources they have found or are still looking for you can encourage a group sharing experience.
Student Skills Application			
15	Share	Up until now you may have relied on your instructor or Pathway Support to help you with your challenges. These are great resources but during this unit you have been empowered to be resourceful using the tools and resources available to you as an online student.	Read or say in your own words.
	Case Study Group Activity	Use the case studies found at the bottom of this document to conduct this activity as a class group. 1. Ask for a volunteer to read the first case study to the class. 2. As a class, counsel together to think of at least 2 resources you could use to solve the problem mentioned 3. Encourage the class to share additional ideas 4. Repeat steps 1-3 with the remaining case studies as time allows	For this activity encourage class members to draw on what they learned in the lesson material and their own discovery. Review the case studies in advance and think of your own ideas you can share with the class.
	Discuss	Wrap up this activity with a short discussion about when to ask for help from your instructor and when to use your resources.	
	Testimony and Prayer	Bear a 30-90 second testimony of the importance of utilizing the resources that have been prepared for you. Invite the members of the class to either bookmark the links or create a file of the resources they have found so they are easily accessible when challenges come up. End with a prayer by invitation.	

BLESSINGS IN BRAZIL

Learn how 26-year-old Diogo Bezerra used his English skills and education to triple his income and start a business

Diogo Bezerra was raised with his nine siblings by their single mom in São Paulo, Brazil. When Diogo was 10, his mom became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It wasn't until he was 14 that Diogo had his own spiritual experience that inspired him to also join.

At church, Diogo noticed that some of the kids his age were learning English. Unfortunately, all of the language courses he could find were too expensive. When Diogo was called to serve a mission in Portugal, he was excited to learn English and worked very hard at it.

Diogo returned from his mission with an increased desire to help other people, which led him to become a service missionary for BYU-Pathway Worldwide. From 2016 to 2019, Diogo saw people's lives improve and he has loved helping them. In April 2018, he also decided to start PathwayConnect himself while serving as a missionary.

Because he was able to speak English, Diogo got a job working at Xerox and was paid three times more than he could have made without his English skills. He also built a home for his mom — his ultimate dream.

After a while, he noticed the people around him did not have the same opportunities he had and wondered how he could make a difference. Diogo ran his ideas by others and decided to start a business offering affordable English classes.

Because Diogo didn't have business experience, he relied on God — taking initiative and working hard to make his goals a reality. "I just had God to help me to connect with people and to motivate me to get my fears out," he said. With faith in God, he quit his secure job and took a risk so that he could make a difference in his community.

"There were times when I had anxiety and fear and those times [when] I had God to help me. I know that God exists because of my testimony but also [because of] the support and all the spiritual help He gave me throughout a difficult time as a new business owner. He helped me a lot by just giving me the right people to help me and to support me."

Because Diogo and his friends didn't have a building to meet in or the money to rent a space, they first met in shopping malls. The food courts provided a perfect place for students to learn in real situations.

Despite the program's low cost, it was still difficult for some people to afford instruction, so Diogo and his team developed a scholarship system in which every three paying students allow one student who is not able to afford the course to participate.

After designing their business and finding ways to accommodate the community, Diogo and his friends worked hard to invite as many people as they could. "Now we have almost 200 students at our school…. Some of our students are teachers now. They're making money…. We have companies that contract our services to teach in their companies," said Diogo. The two-year program also encourages students from other states in Brazil to connect virtually, including through Facebook live broadcasts with American English speakers each month.

“Learning English is a journey,” said Diogo. “If they keep doing their part to study every day and to make it real, they will learn English.”

After completing PathwayConnect, he said, “I started [PathwayConnect] just trying to improve my skills and found companies to support my English school.” Because Diogo was working toward higher education, companies gave him more support, which helped his business and changed his life. He hopes to earn a bachelor’s degree in business someday.

His advice to students is, “Just don’t give up…. It’s going to help you.” Just like Diogo had God’s support in accomplishing His goals, so do you! Continuing your education will bless you and give you opportunities to bless others.

Case Studies

1. Sanjay's classes are going very well. He is confident in his work and studies. One week in his math class he really starts to struggle. He has questions about how to understand the word problems and how get a solution. He got a low score on his quiz during the week.

2. Rosa is working full time while taking online classes. Her employer asked for a letter to prove her enrollment in university classes. Rosa doesn't know where to get help for this. She posted a question in her "Questions and Conversations" discussion in her class but her instructor has not responded after several days.

3. Kate is a part-time student, working part-time and holds a calling in her ward Relief Society. She is struggling to manage her time and is falling behind in assignments. She wants to succeed but she isn't sure how to balance all of her duties and tasks.

4. Levi is having a hard time in one of his classes. He has questions about the course but his instructor will not respond to his emails. Levi has even tried texting and calling his instructor. He is worried his grade will begin to drop. He needs help but doesn't know where to go.

5. Marisol is taking a creative writing class which she loves. Writing has always come easy to her. On her most recent paper Marisol received a grade lower than normal with very little feedback from her instructor. She wants to improve her grade but she doesn't know what went wrong.

6. Jaques has a documented learning disability that creates challenges in certain areas of his learning. It is the start of a new semester and he is consistently struggling with one area of his course. He knows he needs help but he doesn't want to cause trouble.