

Taking an Online Class and using Chatroom

If you are a BMCC student and this is your first time taking an online course, one thing you should do is to review the mandatory BMCC orientation, by logging into the BMCC website www.BMCC.cuny.edu and searching for Blackboard, then click on the [E-Learning orientation](#) link.

Here you will view a series of seven orientation videos which will tell you all you need to know about navigating your online classes. Let's listen to the welcome orientation video by clicking the video below, or you can view it on YouTube by searching BMCC online E-Learning orientation.

<https://youtu.be/76DisUY3d3A>

Once you've completed your orientation, you should know how to create an avatar or profile picture, find the syllabus, use the discussion board, find your reading material, and post your assignments.



In addition, here's a short clip on how to use EMAIL in Blackboard.

Click on the video link below or view the video:

<https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Interact/Email>

Using online chat rooms allow for more active discussions and participation among students. Here are some helpful ways students should effectively utilize classroom chat room.

- 1. Become a Respected Chat Room Participant.** Online class chat rooms can be the best place to make connections, share your insights, and stand out in the crowd. But the seeming informality of the virtual world leads some students to share inappropriate information or be lax with their grammar! Learn how to communicate in chat rooms and take these venues seriously. In return, you'll gain the respect of your professors and the admiration of your peers.
- 2. Make Good Use of Visuals.** Visuals such as photos and videos are effective tools to help students pay attention and retain the information. Although online chats are interactive, students can get easily bored if you won't show them something interesting. Use appealing yet informative videos and images that relate to the topic you are discussing. This will help students remember your lessons and discussions easily. Ask them questions about the visuals, and allow them to have a more profound discussion about the lesson using the class chat room. Given that online chats are real-time, you can get instantaneous feedback from the students. Additionally, students can express their thoughts more easily through chat than through verbal communication.
- 3. Participate in the chatroom.** Chatrooms serve as classroom participation and gives the instructor an idea of each student's thought process. For this reason, students should let their voices be heard, this is done

effectively when students comment on their peer's ideas, and add new prospective to what has already been shared. Students who just keep quiet while reading messages in the chat box without participating are not adding to the value of the classroom discussion.

- 4. Critical Thinking.** Learning isn't just about memorizing what's in the textbooks. It is also important for students to improve their critical thinking skills. This can be done through text analysis, role-playing through online chat, and problem-solving. These activities can sharpen your mind and help you become better critical thinkers.

Before we end, let's hear what Bill gates have to say about the future of online education.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hrd0NiWMljk>



REFEERENCE:

<https://blog.kamiapp.com/effective-ways-to-use-online-chat-in-the-classroom/>

Website: <http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/elearning/>

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