

# Creating Presence in the Online Classroom

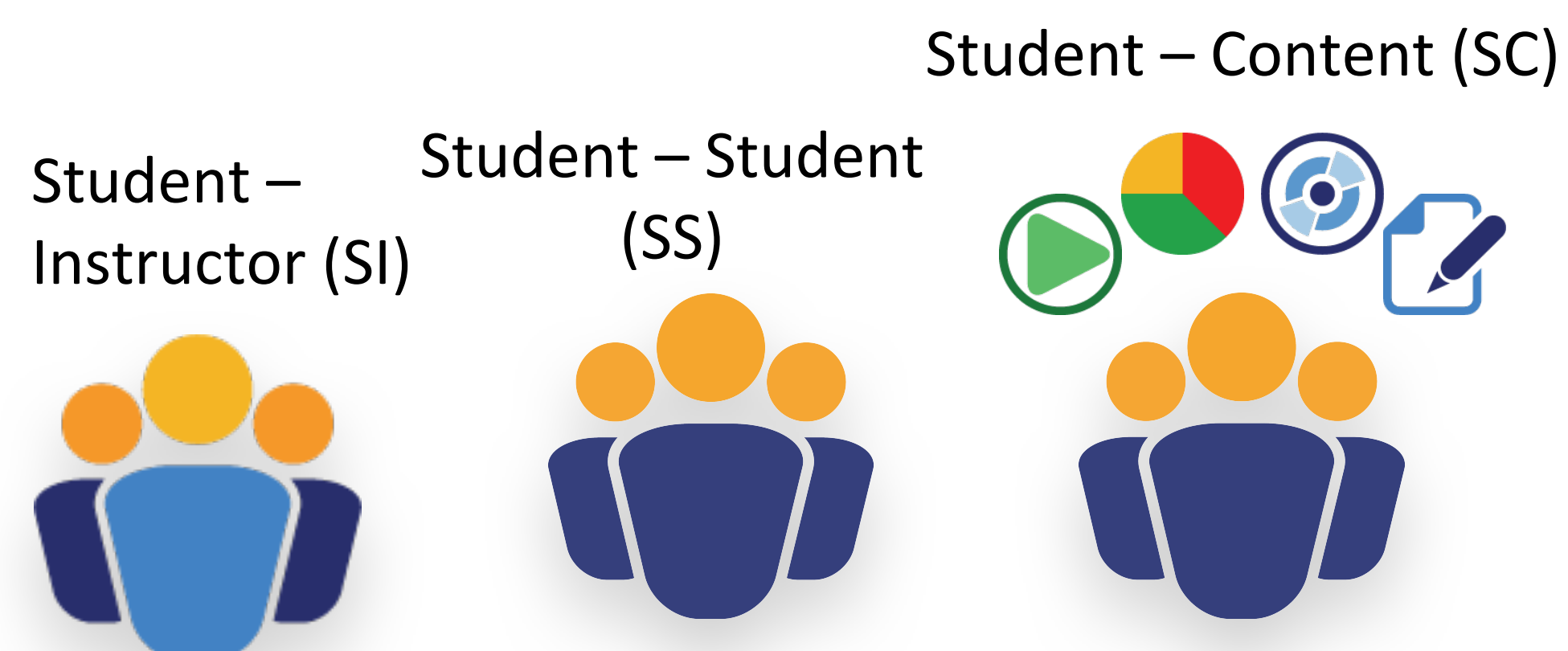
*Plan to be visible, even when students can't see you.*

Being present in the face-to-face classroom is nearly effortless . . . after all, you and your students usually see each other a few times per week! However, creating a strong teaching presence online takes some work and a good deal of planning. It's important to create this presence in some small way at least several times a week, whether by posting an announcement, responding to a discussion board thread, or holding live office hours. Even sending out a simple email reminder to students about an assignment that's coming due can serve as a reminder that their instructor is present. After all, don't we make such announcements in our face-to-face classes?

In a brick-and-mortar setting, presence and communication seem to happen naturally. However, in the online classroom, without the benefit of physical proximity, we need to create that sense of community and inclusion in purposeful, meaningful ways. An online community can begin forming when students post introductions about themselves and continues through to interaction with their peers, their instructor, and with the types of robust, engaging material that are a perfect fit for online courses. It's also important to keep the lines of communication open by setting expectations upfront for workload, communication policies, and turnaround time for assignments and feedback. Lastly, let students know that you value their perspective and input and ask for their feedback about how they feel they are doing in the course, what is working well, and concepts or assignments for which they need more clarification.

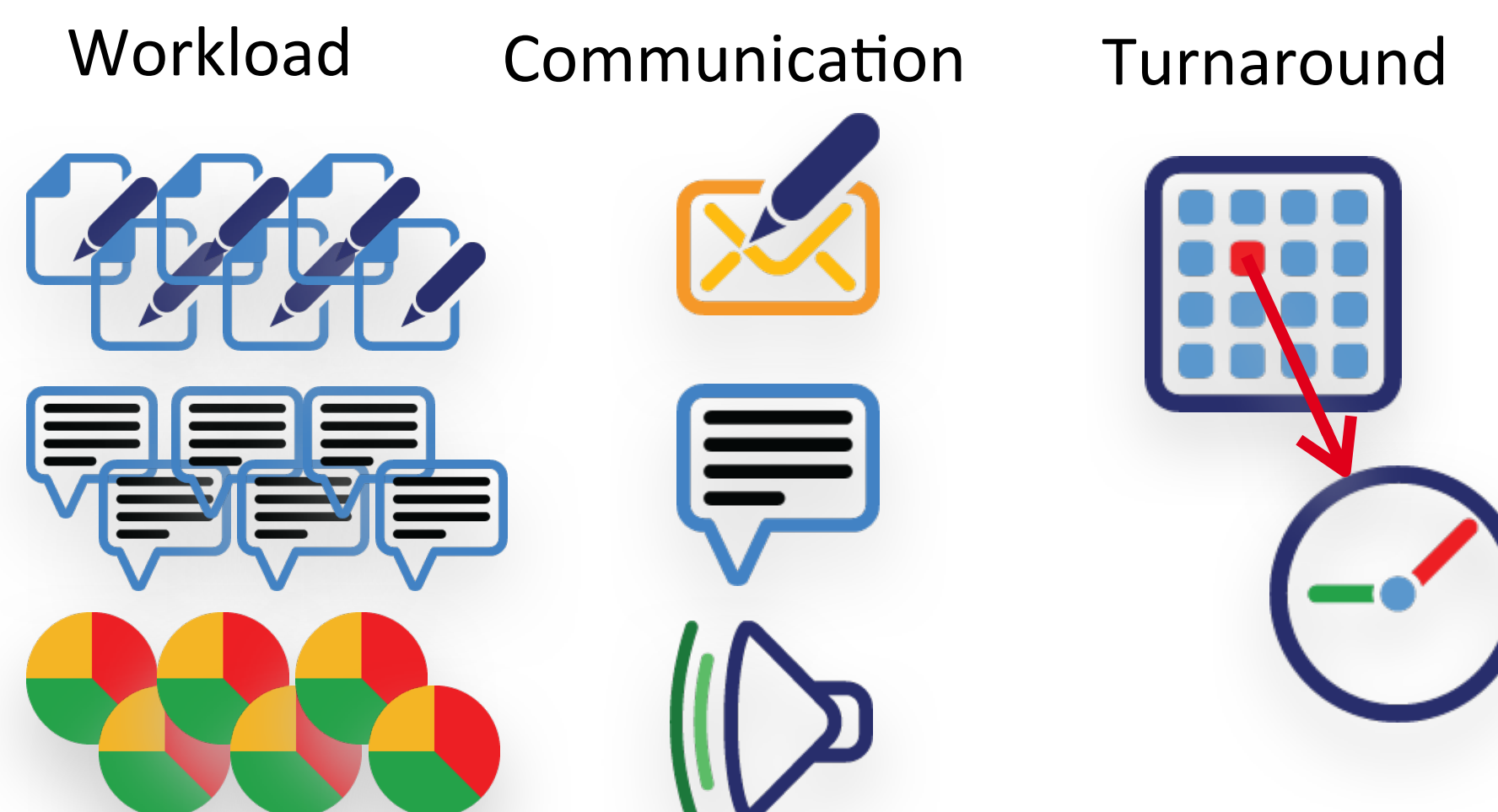
## Encourage Interaction

**Consider all 3 types of student interaction:**



## Communicate Expectations

**Including, but not limited to:**



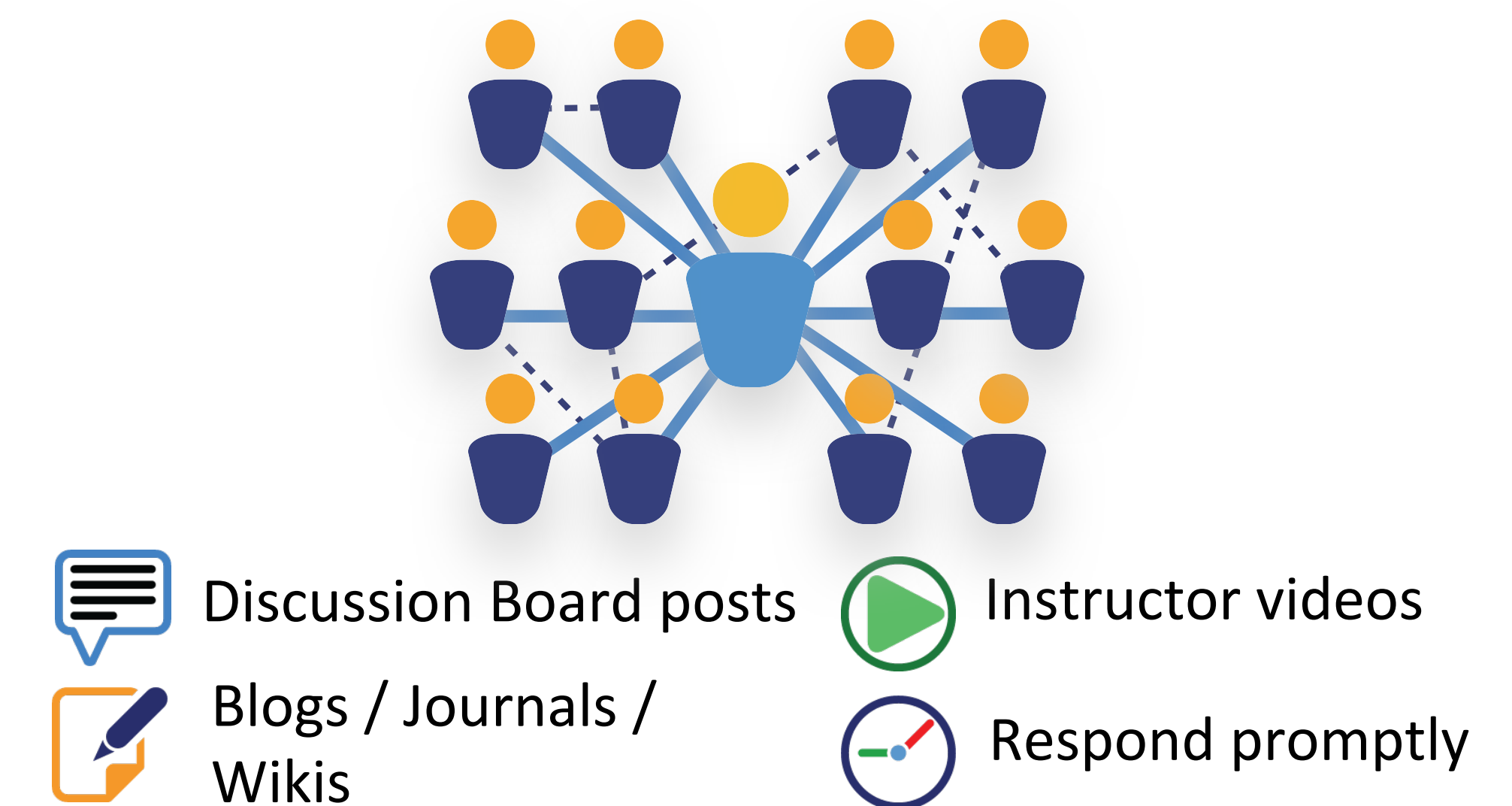
## Be Present

**Be present in some way (most) every day:**



## Create an Online Community

**Establish social presence to reduce distance:**



## Ask Students for Feedback

**Continuous formative feedback**

