Session IX: 2:45 – 3:30 p.m. (concurrent)

Synchronous Strategies for Interactive Live Virtual Class Sessions that Engage Students and Build Community

DESCRIPTION

For new and experienced online instructors, or those who work with them, this session will give participants a chance to learn concrete activities and strategies that have been experience-tested during synchronous, live virtual class sessions. Participants will come away with something new for their virtual instruction toolkit.
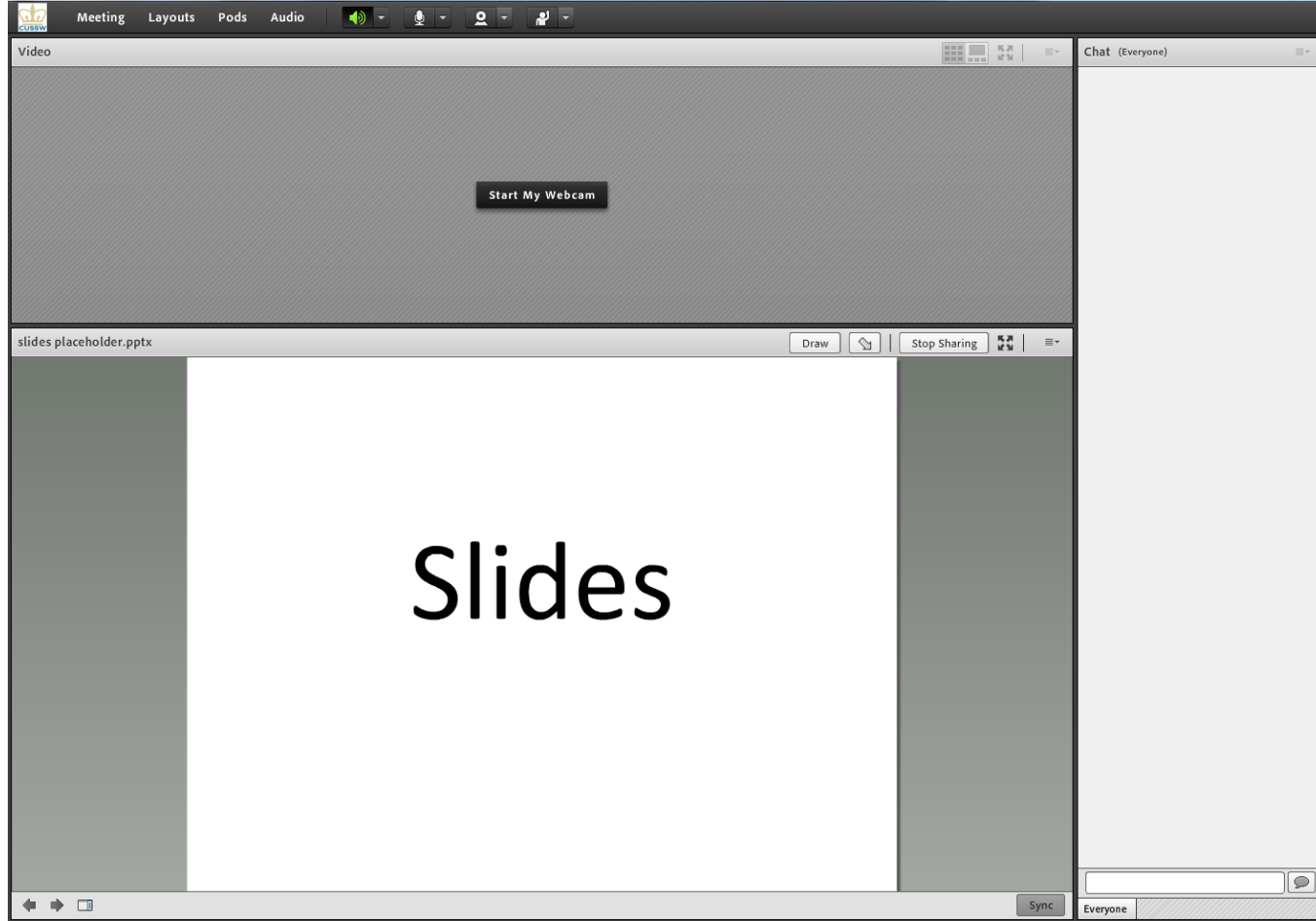
Throughout the presentation, participants will have the opportunity to share their own strategies, ask questions, and add to their toolkits of online institutional strategies. This will include the chance to experience innovative uses of chat and polling. The presentation will include a handout of strategies and concrete ideas to take home.

PRESENTERS

Matthea Marquart
Samuel Rosenthal
Columbia University

EDUCATION BEYOND
TOMORROW:
INNOVATION IN
PEDAGOGY AND PRACTICE
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Layout: Opening

Screenshot of Adobe® Connect™ interface produced by the presenters and reproduced with permission from Adobe Systems Incorporated

Welcome!

Thank you for choosing to spend your time with us - we will do our best to make this session valuable for you

Synchronous Strategies for Interactive Live Virtual Class Sessions that Engage Students and Build Community

Your Presenters

Matthea Marquart
Assoc. Director, Online Program, Columbia University School of Social Work

Sam Rosenthal
Webinar Specialist, Columbia University School of Professional Studies

Chapter: Instructional Strategies for Synchronous Components of Online Courses
Creating Teacher Immediacy in Online Learning Environments, Steven D'Agustino, Ed.

http://www.igi-global.com/chapter/instructional-strategies-for-synchronous-components-of-online-courses/148897

What's in this for you?

- Presentation of philosophy and strategies from chapter & experience with hundreds of virtual class sessions

- Handout of concrete ideas & activities you can use to engage students and build community

- Practice uses of polling

- Practice uses of chat
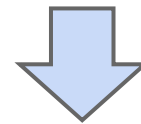
- Share your strategies & ask questions

How to Participate in this Session

We'd love to hear your thoughts and see your active engagement throughout this session via:

- Chat
- Polls

Note: Because we didn't know how many attendees we'd have, we planned this session to be interactive without the use of participant webcam or mic. At the end, during Q&A, we welcome participant questions via mic.

Layout: Introductions

Screenshot of Adobe® Connect™ interface produced by the presenters and reproduced with permission from Adobe Systems Incorporated

Polls

- What brought you to this session today?

- How much experience do you have with live virtual classes?

Introductions - Type into Chat

Please share:

- Your city, school, and how you're feeling

- Something interesting you've learned at this conference so far

Layout: Mini-Presentation
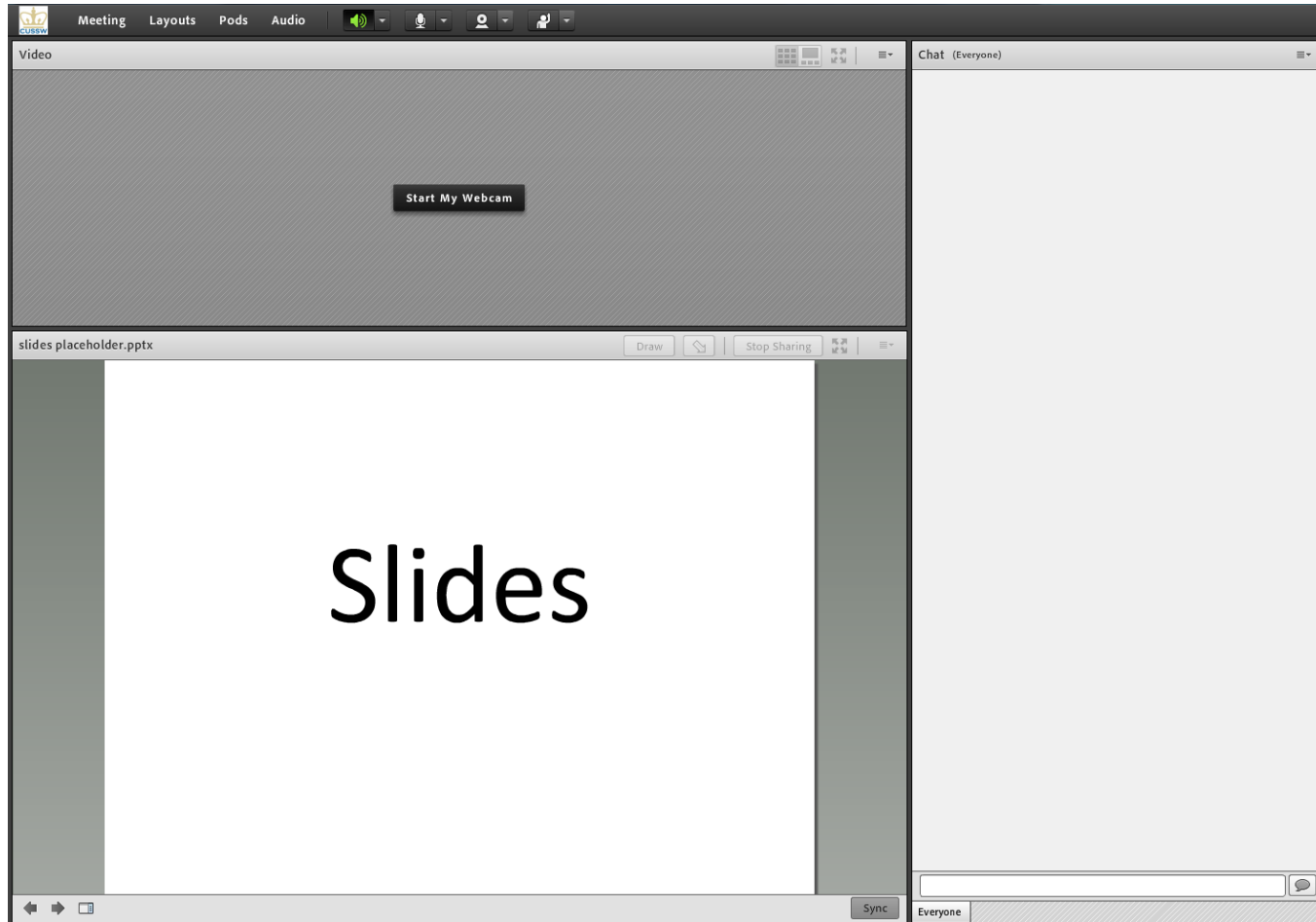
Screenshot of Adobe® Connect™ interface produced by the presenters and reproduced with permission from Adobe Systems Incorporated

What Do We Strive For in Our Live Virtual Class Sessions?

- Foreground instructor immediacy

- High level of student-faculty and student-student interaction

- High level of class interactivity using different interface features

- Rule of thumb: ask students to do something every 3-5 minutes

- Offload technical concerns to support person

How do we do this on the online platform?

Layout: Mini-Presentation with Poll

Screenshot of Adobe® Connect™ interface produced by the presenters and reproduced with permission from Adobe Systems Incorporated

Webcam with mic

"Using webcams really builds my connection with the students….the connection builds week by week….By the end of the semester, I am as connected to my students as I am in a face-to-face classroom setting."

-- Prof John Robertson (p. 200)

"Incorporating webcams adds depth to the quality of student interaction….I ask students to use their webcams as a strategy for engaging each other in ways that would not be possible in a campus-based classroom"

-- Prof Amelia Ortega (p. 200)

Have you used webcam and mic in a live virtual class? Please let us know in the poll.

Layout: Mini-Presentation
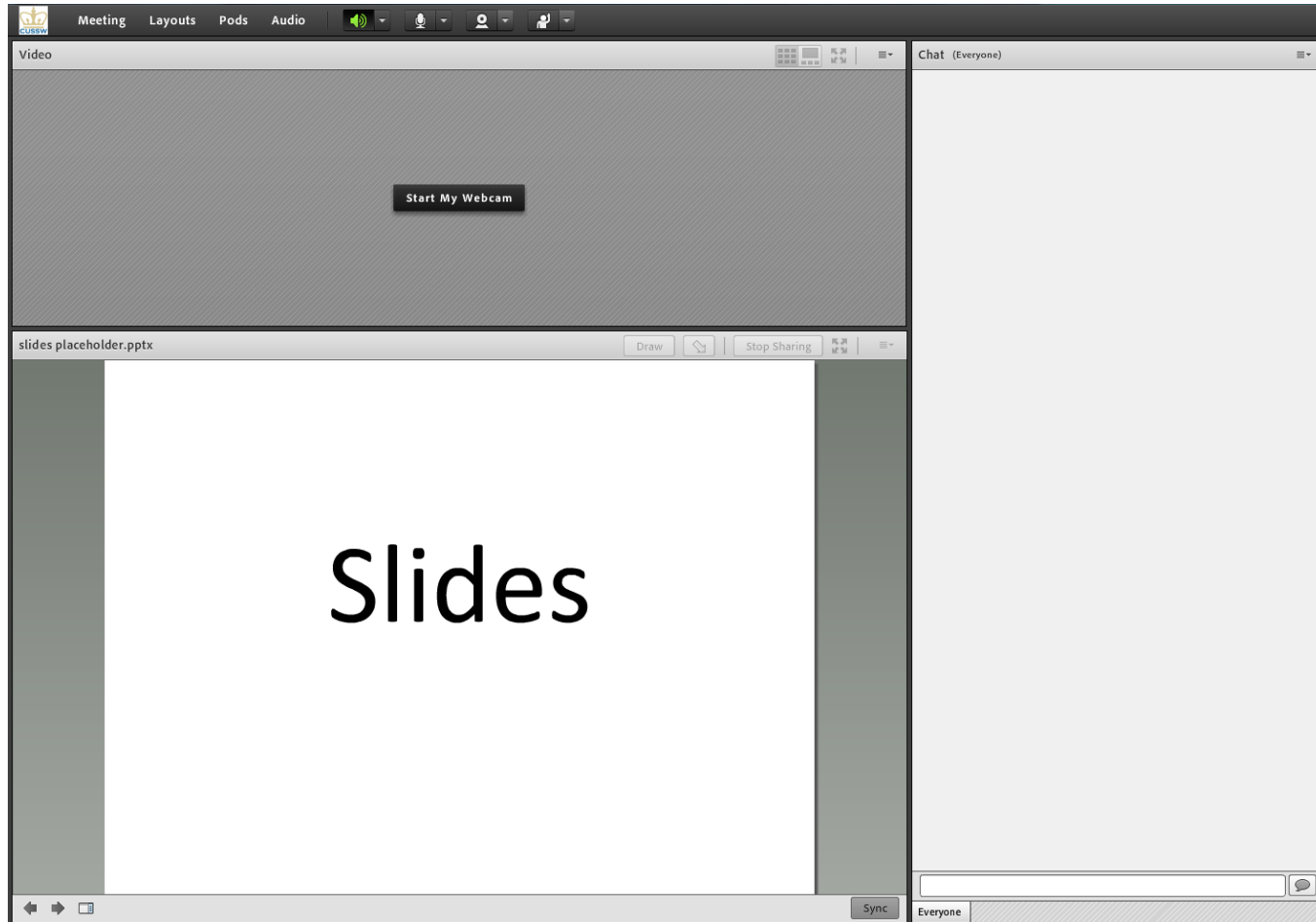
Screenshot of Adobe® Connect™ interface produced by the presenters and reproduced with permission from Adobe Systems Incorporated

Typed chat

"Chat is one of the richest parts of being in a virtual class session together, in real time….The chat turns the class sessions into a dialogue."

-- Prof Katrina Pugh (p. 202)

"It gives all students an equal chance to participate. It is especially important for the involvement of usually shy and non-participating students. This group often involves international students."

-- Prof Mashura Akilova (p. 202)

What do you think of the chat feature? Please let us know in the chat.

Formal and informal polling

"An effective poll engages the students, makes students active participants (and keeps them alert), and makes students feel like their opinions count….Polls can also gather helpful anonymous feedback and allow students to gauge their opinions versus those of their peers."

-- Prof Basil Rabinowitz (p. 203)

"I'm a huge fan of official polls as well as the 'informal' polls with hand raising, emoticons, etc. They're easy check-ins to ensure I'm audible or to inquire if students have personally experienced what I am discussing in the moment."

-- Prof Lauri Harrison (p. 204)

Have you used polls in your classes? If yes, how did it go? Please let us know in the chat.

Other platform features

Note pods

"The switch from lecturing off of a prepared slide to creating an example via a live note pod creates a sense of immediacy in the student."

-- Prof Rebecca Shaffer (p. 205)

Drawing tools

"The use of drawing tools….allows online faculty to add an unexpected level of spontaneity and a human touch to their lectures or presentations."

-- Prof Mario A. González-Corzo (p. 205)

Breakout groups

"They increase student engagement and team building, contribute to a sense of intimacy within the course, and allow me to monitor student discussion and help guide students toward the goal."

-- Prof Karl Rutter (p. 205)

What other features do you like to use? Please let us know in the chat.

For Adobe Connect: The Randomizer

Free download here:
http://www.adobe.com/products/adobeconnect/apps/randomizer.html

Randomizer

Use this extension to randomly select an Adobe Connect meeting participant for a prize or other special distinction. Randomizer is a great way to manage giveaways during your webinars.

Randomizer

☑ Show last names   Select Random Attendee

ver 1.0

Features:

· Generate excitement in your marketing seminars by selecting participants for random prize giveaways

· Hide winner's last name if you want to preserve privacy

Languages: English
**License**: Freeware
Price: Free
Author: Alistair Lee
**Compatible with**: Adobe Connect 8

Managing the Online Environment

- Set expectations about appropriate behavior at the beginning of the semester

    - This includes appropriate use of chat and breakout room time

- Consider having students sign a "technology contract"

    - This helps to underline the importance of students' being prepared

- Establish standards about frequency of webcam and microphone use

- Determine the division of labor between the instructor, TA, and support person ahead of semester start

Layout: Mini-Presentation with Handout
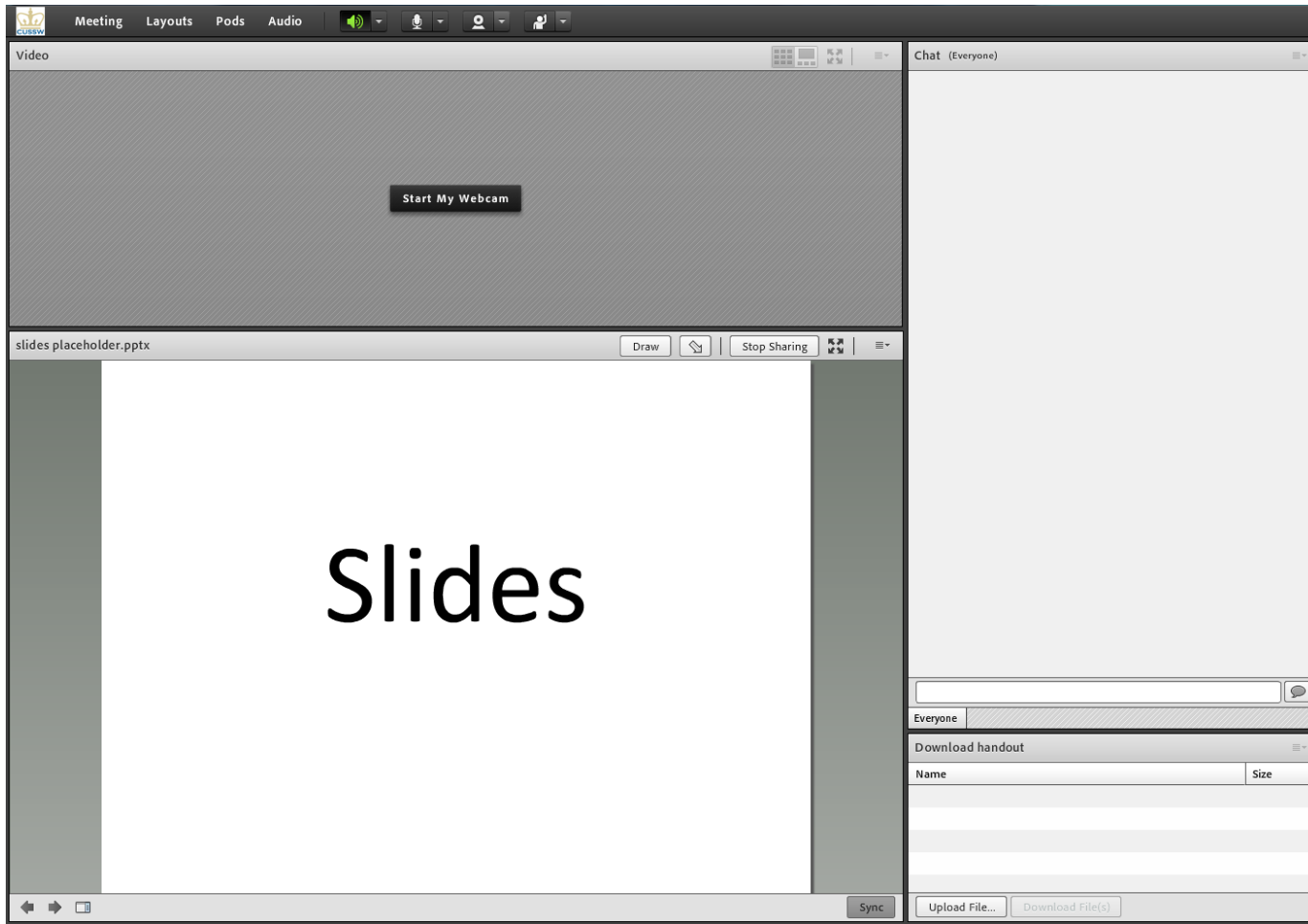
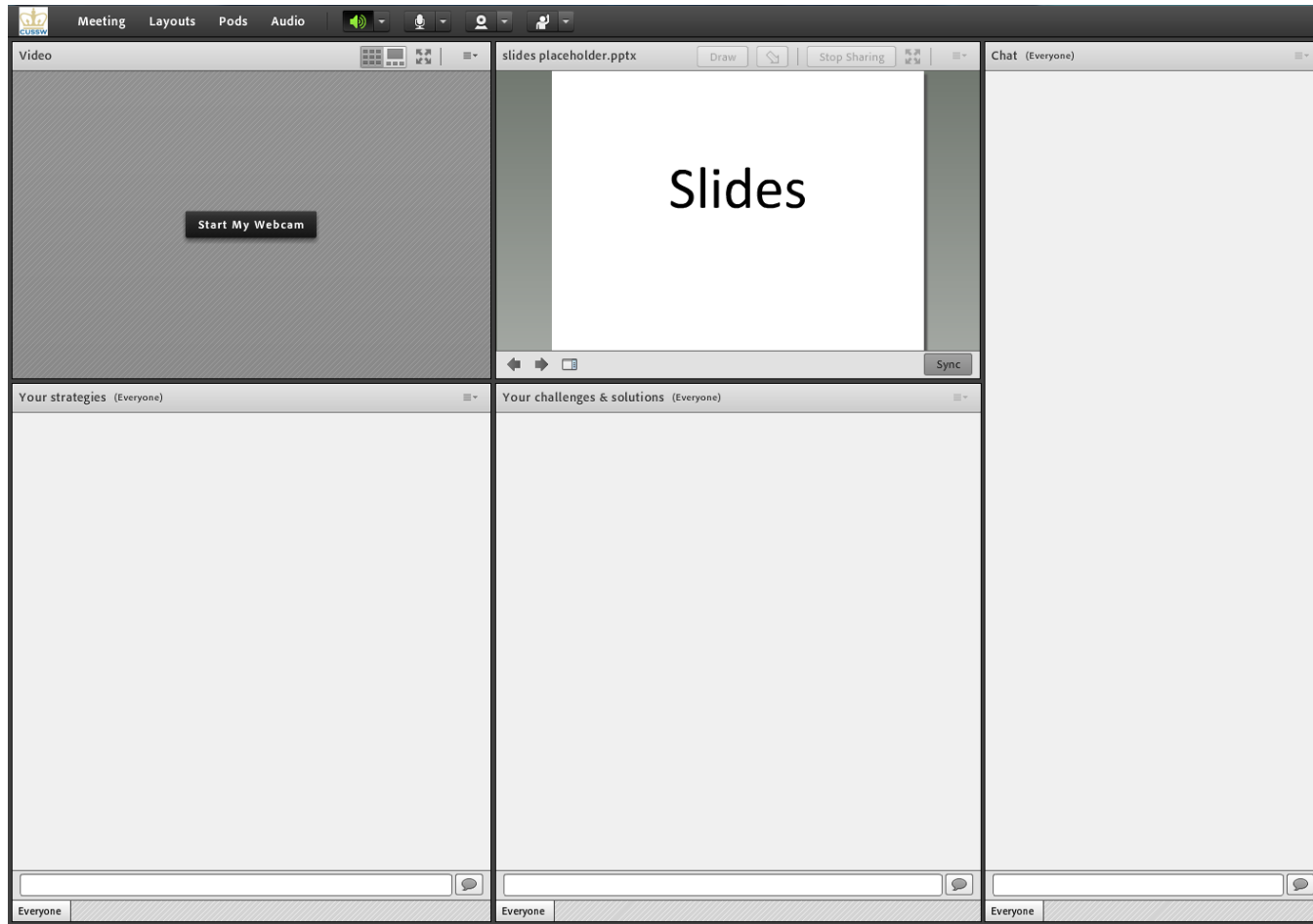1. **Click on file name**

2. **Click "Download File"**
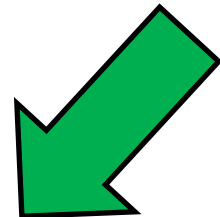
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Handout

- Table 1. Common challenges to online instruction and recommendations (p. 197)

- Table 2. Uses of interactive tools to promote instructor immediacy (p. 201)

- Table 3. Checklist for self-assessment of instructional behaviors promoting instructor immediacy in synchronous class sessions (p. 207)

Does the handout bring up any questions for you? Please let us know in the chat.

Layout: Sharing Your Strategies & Issues/Concerns

Your turn

There are two new chat pods here -- please share within the appropriate chat pod, and please respond to each other

- <u>Chat 1</u>: Your favorite strategies for interactive live virtual class sessions

- <u>Chat 2</u>: Your biggest challenges (and solutions)

How does interaction ⇒ Community & Student Engagement?

Why does all this use of technology matter?

- Helps create a positive learning environment in which students feel valued, which can help motivate students to make an effort and learn
- Helps students activate prior knowledge, make connections between what they know and what they're learning, apply what they're learning, reflect
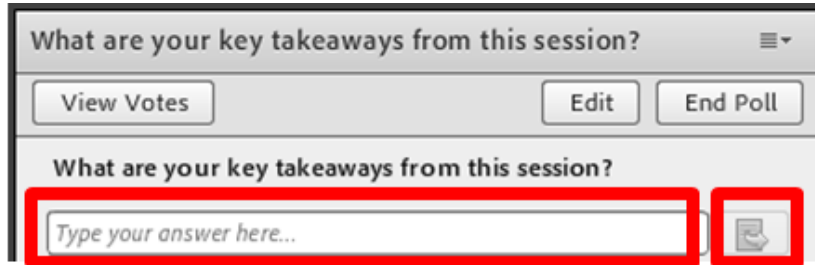
Do you agree? Please let us know in the chat.

Layout: Wrap-up

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Poll

- What are your key takeaways from this session?

1. Type   2. Click

Q&A

If want a copy of the slides or would like to contact us:

Matthea Marquart: Twitter @MattheaMarquart or Email msm2002@columbia.edu

Sam Rosenthal: sar2131@columbia.edu

Thank you

- ***Our fantastic session participants!***
- Peter Eggebraaten
- Misti Kill
- Michael Fleming
- Melanie Hibbert
- John Robertson
- Amelia Ortega
- Katrina Pugh
- Mashura Akilova
- Basil Rabinowitz
- Lauri Harrison
- Rebecca Shaffer
- Mario A. González-Corzo
- Karl Rutter

- Columbia Southern University
- 2016 Education Beyond Tomorrow Virtual Conference
- Columbia University School of Professional Studies
- Columbia University School of Social Work