Onwards to Better: Considerations for Fall 2021 Teaching

During remote learning, students conducted all their learning activities via a computer and instructors often provided notes, slides, and lecture recordings. As we return to classrooms, what should stay? In this series we address major questions educators face and provide evidence-informed answers (see references here https://beav.es/3Vc).

SHOULD YOU PROVIDE LECTURE RECORDINGS?

WHAT SOME FACULTY MAY THINK:
Students will not attend class.

WHAT SOME STUDENTS MAY THINK:
I can replay material I missed.

What the Evidence Suggests ---

Pros
• Can consolidate, clarify, deepen learning when used in addition to attendance.
• On-demand any time-any place access to lectures, increases inclusivity for students with ADHD/learning disabilities, student-athletes, and those who cannot attend.
• Recordings are valuable to international students who can view a recording multiple times to increase comprehension.

Cons
• Students may be less likely to attend class.
• Technical difficulties, less instructor-student interaction, increase in procrastination and surface learning.
• Students may make limited use of recordings.
• Students less likely to take notes during class.

BOTTOM LINE: If providing recordings, it is still important for students to attend and take good notes. Instructors should address how best to use recordings such as a revision aid (Nordman, et al., 2020).

In General: The effectiveness of your pedagogical choices on learning depend on a number of factors (e.g., the educator and student characteristics, discipline, course level, lecture, & slide quality). Be intentional, transparent, and compassionate in pedagogical decision making. It always pays to be CCUNITE (Compassionate, Clear, Organized, Multi-faceted, Flexible, and Engaging).