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From the Classroom to the Screen: The Power of Artistic Expression and Emotional Intelligence in Effective Online Teaching and Communication

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Abstract

In the context of the increasing prevalence of online education, it is crucial to explore productive approaches that enhance student engagement and foster meaningful interactions. The article examines the role of emotional intelligence and artistic expression in online teaching and communication, drawing from original global survey research with over 200 teacher and educator respondents. The study emphasizes the effectiveness of artistic expression in capturing students' attention, facilitating comprehension, and promoting creativity. The research explores strategies for incorporating emotional intelligence and artistic expression in online teaching, offering practical tips specifically suited for online English instruction. These strategies guide educators in creating dynamic online learning environments that optimize the learning experience and promote academic success. Acknowledging challenges, the paper sheds light on the hesitations and fears experienced by participants in being recorded or teaching in front of a camera. It highlights the need for training, resources, and guidelines to support educators in acquiring and developing artistic expression skills. By addressing challenges and integrating artistic expression, teachers can create impactful and supportive online learning environments that promote student engagement and provide an enriched learning experience in the digital era of education. Finally, the article provides valuable insights and practical recommendations

to enhance online teaching practices.

Keywords: Online teaching and communication, artistic expression, emotional intelligence

I. Introduction:

Effective communication plays a crucial role in online teaching, where instructors strive to engage and connect with learners in virtual environments. As the demand for online education continues to grow, it becomes imperative to explore innovative approaches that foster meaningful interactions and enhance the learning experience. The article examines the power of artistic expression and the role of emotional intelligence in effective online teaching and communication.

Online teaching refers to the delivery of educational content and instruction through digital platforms, allowing learners to access courses remotely. The global pandemic has accelerated the adoption of online teaching, making it a prevalent mode of education worldwide (Hodges et al., 2020). In this context, effective communication becomes essential for building rapport, creating a sense of community, and promoting successful learning outcomes.

Emotional intelligence, defined as the ability to recognize and understand one's own emotions and those of others, has been widely recognized as a valuable skill for educators (Salovey & Mayer, 1990). In the online teaching realm, emotional intelligence assumes even greater significance as instructors face challenges related to physical distance and limited nonverbal cues (Tang et al., 2023). Cultivating emotional intelligence enables educators to empathize with their students, adapt teaching strategies to meet their needs, and establish a supportive learning environment (Ali Alshehri et al., 2021).

Artistic expression, encompassing various forms of creative communication, holds immense potential for engaging students in online learning environments. It allows instructors to convey complex ideas and emotions through visual, auditory, or kinesthetic means, capturing learners' attention and facilitating comprehension (Siddins et al., 2021). Integrating artistic expression in online teaching stimulates cognitive processes, encourages active participation, and fosters a sense of enjoyment and connection among learners (Mathews et al., 2022).

By exploring the power of emotional intelligence and artistic expression in online teaching, this article seeks to provide educators with valuable insights and practical strategies to enhance their instructional practices. The subsequent sections delve into the significance of emotional

intelligence and artistic expression, offering examples and recommendations for incorporating these elements into online teaching environments.

II. Literature Review:

Emotional intelligence (EI), a construct coined by Salovey and Mayer (1990), refers to the ability to perceive, understand, regulate, and utilize emotions effectively in oneself and others. In the context of online teaching, emotional intelligence plays a crucial role in fostering meaningful connections, promoting student engagement, and enhancing overall learning outcomes.

The relevance of emotional intelligence in online teaching stems from the unique challenges faced by instructors in virtual environments. The absence of physical proximity and limited nonverbal cues can hinder effective communication and rapport-building. However, educators with well-developed emotional intelligence skills can bridge these gaps by exhibiting empathy, adaptability, and attentiveness to students' emotional states (Tang et al., 2023).

Research has demonstrated the positive impact of emotional intelligence on student engagement and success in online learning environments. Students who perceive their instructors as emotionally intelligent tend to report higher levels of satisfaction, motivation, and a sense of belonging in the online classroom (Ali Alshehri et al., 2021; Vişcu et al., 2016). Emotional intelligence also contributes to the establishment of a supportive and inclusive learning environment, where students feel valued and understood, thereby enhancing their willingness to participate actively in discussions and collaborative activities.

In online teaching, examples of emotional intelligence can manifest in various ways. For instance, instructors can demonstrate empathy by acknowledging and validating students' challenges, concerns, or achievements through personalized feedback. They can also adapt their teaching strategies to accommodate diverse learning preferences and individual circumstances, thereby fostering a sense of inclusivity and understanding. Additionally, instructors with high emotional intelligence can effectively manage their own emotions and respond constructively to student queries, concerns, or conflicts, thereby promoting a positive and conducive online learning environment.

By harnessing emotional intelligence skills, online educators can create an atmosphere of trust, empathy, and collaboration, which in turn enhances student engagement, promotes active learning, and contributes to improved academic performance.

Artistic expression refers to the use of creative and imaginative methods to convey ideas, emotions, and concepts (Zakaria et al., 2019). In the context of online teaching, artistic expression can play a powerful role in

engaging students, enhancing their learning experience, and fostering their academic success.

Artistic expression encompasses a range of mediums, including visual arts, music, drama, storytelling, and multimedia presentations. In online teaching, artistic expression involves integrating these creative elements into instructional materials and activities to stimulate students' senses and imagination.

Artistic expression is particularly crucial in online teaching because it helps to overcome the limitations of the virtual environment. Incorporating visual and auditory stimuli, it provides a multi-sensory learning experience, compensating for the absence of physical presence and facilitating deeper engagement with the subject matter (Volpe et al., 2019).

Artistic expression in online teaching has a profound impact on student engagement and success. It captures students' attention, sparks their curiosity, and creates an emotional connection with the learning content. When students are emotionally engaged, they are more likely to be motivated, focused, and active participants in the learning process.

Artistic expression also enhances comprehension and retention of information (Rinne et al., 2011). Visual representations, such as infographics or interactive diagrams, can simplify complex concepts and make them more accessible to students. Similarly, incorporating music, storytelling, or dramatic elements can create a memorable and immersive learning experience that facilitates knowledge retention.

Furthermore, artistic expression fosters creativity and critical thinking skills, empowering students to develop higher-order thinking abilities, problem-solving skills, and self-expression (Maneen, Cari A. 2016). In the context of online teaching, incorporating various forms of artistic expression offers a rich learning experience.

III. Research Questions:

The investigation into the role of emotional intelligence and artistic expression in effective online teaching and communication sought to address the following research questions:

1. How does incorporating artistic expression in online teaching contribute to student engagement and comprehension and what is the impact of emotional intelligence in this context?
2. Which forms of artistic expression and skills of emotional intelligence are most effective in capturing students' attention and fostering a sense of enjoyment and connection?
3. What are the challenges faced by educators in implementing artistic expression strategies in online teaching?

4. How can educators overcome these challenges and effectively integrate emotional intelligence and artistic expression in their online instructional practices?

By exploring these questions, the present study aims to provide educators with valuable insights and practical strategies to enhance their instructional practices in the digital era of education. Understanding the impact of emotional intelligence and artistic expression on student engagement, comprehension, and overall learning outcomes can lead to more effective and transformative online teaching experiences. Additionally, identifying and addressing the challenges faced by educators in adopting these strategies will inform the development of training programs and resources to support educators in acquiring and developing these crucial skills. Ultimately, the research aims to contribute to the optimization of online learning environments and the promotion of successful academic experiences for both educators and learners.

IV: Methodology:

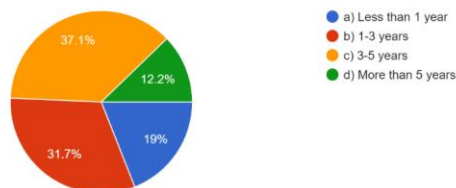
The research methodology involved a survey-based approach. The survey was designed with 10 questions, and 221 respondents (teachers/educators) from all over the world participated by providing their responses to these questions (See Figures 1 and 2).

The survey included a combination of closed-ended and open-ended questions to gather both quantitative and qualitative data. The closed-ended questions provided respondents with pre-defined response options, allowing for statistical analysis and calculation of percentages. The open-ended questions, on the other hand, allowed respondents to provide more detailed and subjective responses, offering qualitative insights into their experiences and perceptions.

The gathered data from the survey responses was then analyzed to identify patterns, trends, and themes within the data set. The analysis involved quantitative techniques such as calculating percentages and frequencies, as well as qualitative techniques to identify common themes or extract meaningful insights from the open-ended responses.

Figure 1.

1. How long have you been teaching online?
221 responses

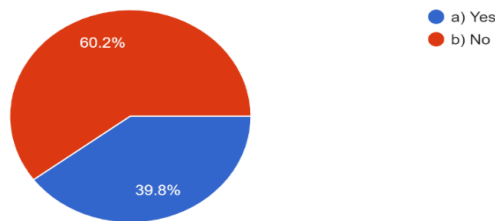


The data shows that the majority of respondents have been teaching online for 1-5 years, with the highest percentage in the 3-5-year range. This suggests a considerable level of experience among the participants.

Figure 2.

2. Have you undergone any training or professional development in utilizing artistic expression in online teaching?

221 responses



Around 40% of the respondents have undergone training or professional development in utilizing artistic expression in online teaching, indicating that a significant portion of the teachers have actively sought to enhance their skills in this area.

V. Urgency and Findings:

Online teaching comes with its own set of challenges. Technical difficulties, maintaining student engagement, and creating a sense of community in a virtual environment are some common challenges faced by online teachers. However, with the increasing prevalence of online teaching and remote work, resources and support are now available to help teachers overcome these challenges (see Table 1). Many online teaching platforms offer training and guidance on effective online teaching strategies, managing virtual classrooms, and utilizing technology for enhanced learning experiences¹.

Besides these challenges, it is understandable that some teachers may initially feel uncomfortable with video recording or public speaking. However, being comfortable in front of a camera is an important aspect of online teaching, and it can be developed over time. Online teaching platforms, along with training resources, provide guidance on improving video recording skills, including tips for lighting, sound, and camera setup. With practice and support, teachers can gradually gain confidence in presenting themselves on camera and delivering engaging online lessons.

¹ Not all resources are free, and some may require a fee or subscription. However, many resources offer free trials or introductory sessions.

A significant number of respondents (19.44%) indicated that they did not have any hesitations or fears about being recorded or teaching in front of a camera. They expressed confidence and comfort in this aspect of online teaching.

Some respondents (22.22%) mentioned that they overcame their initial hesitations or fears through practice and getting used to being in front of the camera. They emphasized the importance of self-improvement, practicing on their own, and gradually becoming comfortable over time.

Several respondents (20.28%) shared that they still have hesitations or fears when it comes to being recorded or teaching in front of a camera. They expressed discomfort, nervousness, and uneasiness. Some mentioned the need for a regulated recording policy or optional recording to address these concerns.

A few respondents (18.06%) specifically mentioned the importance of acquiring artistic expression skills similar to those of an actor. They acknowledged the initial challenges in acquiring these skills and the role of practice in improving their comfort level.

The responses reflect a mix of experiences and feelings regarding being recorded or teaching in front of a camera. While some teachers have overcome their hesitations and become comfortable over time, others still experience discomfort. These insights provide valuable information about the challenges and experiences faced by educators in the online teaching environment.

In the context of online teaching, educators have undergone a remarkable transformation, adopting roles akin to actors and acquiring artistic expression skills that are essential for successful communication in the virtual environment. Just as actors bring characters to life on stage, online teachers have embraced the challenge of engaging their students through the power of artistic expression.

Table 1.

Resource Type	Examples
Online Teaching Platforms	VIPKid, iTutorGroup, Cambly
Professional Organizations	TESOL International Association, IATEFL
Online Courses	University of Cambridge's Teaching English Online course, American TESOL Institute's Online TESOL Certification
Social Media Groups	Teaching English Online Facebook group, Online English Teaching LinkedIn group

The experience of teaching online has prompted educators to overcome their initial hesitations and embrace the camera as a powerful tool. Similar to the way the president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, an actor by profession, captivated audiences during his visits to Western democratic institutions, using his deep insights and persuasive communication skills to

garner support for his defiance of Russia's aggression, online teachers are leveraging their newfound artistic expression skills to reach students on a profound level.

By embracing artistic expression, teachers have learned to harness the power of visual and auditory stimuli to create a dynamic and immersive learning experience. They have discovered the art of effectively using body language, tone, and inflection to convey emotions and engage students in meaningful ways. Through this transformation, online educators have become adept at building connections, fostering student engagement, and creating a supportive virtual learning environment.

The parallels between the role of an actor and that of an online teacher highlight the significance of possessing artistic expression skills in the realm of online education. Just as actors captivate audiences with their performances, teachers can captivate students by utilizing artistic expression to deliver engaging and impactful online lessons.

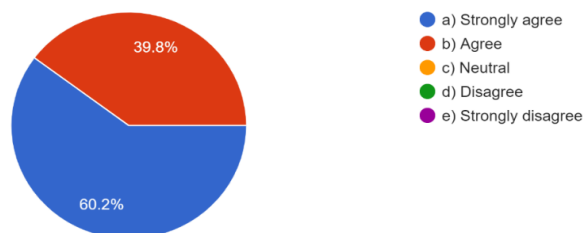
This transformation underscores the power of communication through artistic expression in the online teaching environment. By developing these skills, educators can effectively bridge the physical distance and limited nonverbal cues inherent in online teaching, establishing connections with students that transcend the virtual realm.

VI. Findings and Implications:

Figure 3.

3. In your experience, do you believe that incorporating artistic expression skills (e.g., body language, tone, inflection) has enhanced your communication with students in the online teaching environment?

221 responses

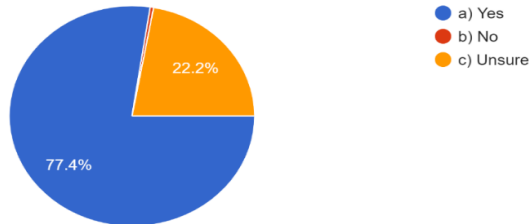


An overwhelming majority of 60.2% strongly agree and 39.8% agree that incorporating artistic expression skills has enhanced their communication and engagement with students in the online teaching environment. This demonstrates the perceived positive impact of artistic expression on teaching effectiveness.

Figure 4.

6. Do you believe that possessing artistic expression skills is crucial for successful communication and engagement in the online teaching environment?

221 responses



The data reveals that the majority, 77.4%, believe that possessing artistic expression skills is crucial for successful communication and engagement in the online teaching environment. However, there is a notable percentage, 22.2%, who are unsure, indicating a need for further exploration and understanding of the importance of artistic expression skills in online teaching.

Overall, the data suggests that a significant number of teachers have been teaching online for several years, and a considerable portion of them have undergone training in utilizing artistic expression. Moreover, respondents strongly believe that incorporating artistic expression skills enhances their communication and engagement with students. The majority also view artistic expression skills as crucial for successful communication and engagement in the online teaching environment.

The data regarding the changes in student engagement and learning outcomes since incorporating artistic expression skills into online teaching demonstrate:

1. Positive Impact on Engagement:

- 68.31% of respondents reported observing an increase in student engagement.
- They mentioned that students were more engaged, focused, motivated, and responsive to communication.
- Some respondents noted that incorporating artistic expression skills, such as body language, emotions, and creativity, attracted students and made learning more interesting.

2. Improved Learning Outcomes:

- 28.17% of respondents mentioned that they noticed improvements in student learning outcomes.

- They stated that students showed better academic performance, scored higher, had better communication skills, and were more active in formative assessments.
 - Respondents highlighted that incorporating artistic expression skills facilitated understanding, made content more accessible, and fostered deeper connections with the subject matter.
3. Student Feedback:
- Several respondents mentioned that students commented on their performance, skills, and artistic abilities.
 - Students expressed joy, complimented the teacher's body language, and were inspired to engage and communicate more effectively.
4. Some Uncertainty:
- 8.45% of respondents were uncertain or unable to observe specific changes in student engagement or learning outcomes.
 - They either didn't have enough data or felt confused about the impact of artistic expression skills on student performance.

To sum up, the majority of respondents reported a positive impact on student engagement and learning outcomes since incorporating artistic expression skills into online teaching. The use of body language, emotions, and creative elements seemed to attract and motivate students, leading to improved academic performance and better communication skills².

The majority of respondents (85.07%) would recommend incorporating artistic expression skills in online teaching to other educators. Here are some key reasons mentioned for recommending it:

1. Artistic expression skills were seen as beneficial in enhancing *student engagement and motivation*. Respondents mentioned that it helps make the learning process more compelling, fosters student engagement, and increases student participation.
2. Incorporating artistic expression skills was perceived as a way to *communicate* more effectively with students. Respondents mentioned that it helps build a genuine and frank attitude, enhances communication, and facilitates a better overall teaching experience.
3. Artistic expression skills were seen as a *differentiating factor* in online teaching. Respondents mentioned that it adds a unique and creative approach to teaching, making it more interesting and enjoyable for both teachers and students.

² The findings are based on self-reported perceptions and experiences of the respondents. The data suggests that incorporating artistic expression skills has the potential to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes in the online teaching environment.

4. Respondents emphasized the importance of acquiring artistic expression skills in the *digitalization era*. They mentioned that these skills are needed in a technology-driven world and will become even more crucial in the *future*.

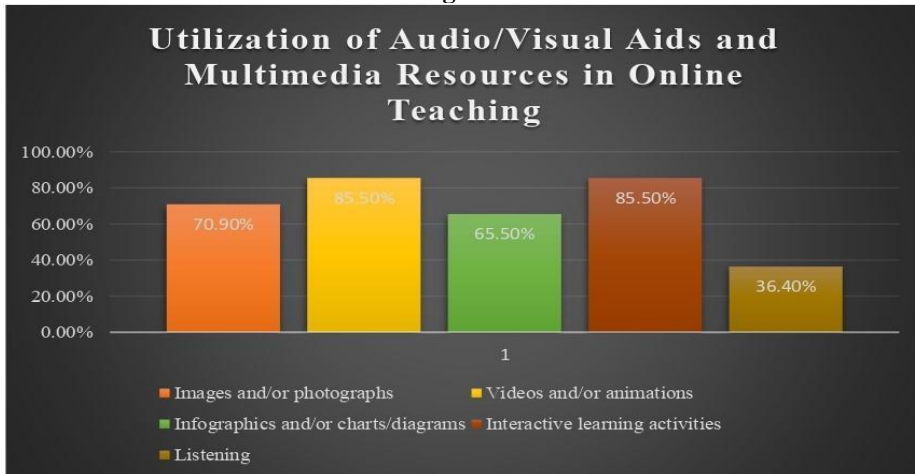
Overall, the responses indicate a positive sentiment towards incorporating artistic expression skills in online teaching, highlighting its potential benefits in student engagement, communication, and creating an engaging learning environment

The responses provided highlight several key points and suggestions regarding *the adoption of artistic expression skills* in online teaching:

1. Many respondents emphasized the need for *practical guidelines, tips, and training programs* to assist educators in acquiring artistic expression skills. They expressed the desire for accessible resources that provide practical advice and assistance in developing these skills.
2. Some respondents mentioned the challenge of *overcoming fear and discomfort* in front of the camera. They expressed a need for tips, guidance, and suggestions on how to feel more comfortable and confident while teaching online.
3. A few respondents raised concerns about *copyright issues* related to recording video classes. They mentioned the need for regulations and *legal frameworks* to address copyright concerns in online teaching.
4. Several respondents highlighted the importance of *incorporating artistic expression skills into teacher training programs*. They suggested that these skills should be included as a component of contemporary coaching programs to prepare educators for the digitalization era.
5. The respondents emphasized the need for more *practical resources, guidelines, and training opportunities* for teachers. They believed that accessible and helpful resources would assist educators in acquiring and developing their artistic expression skills.
6. Some respondents noted that online teaching offers benefits such as *time-saving and efficiency* compared to in-person classes. They acknowledged that online teaching requires preparation but can flow smoothly once educators adjust to the new challenges.

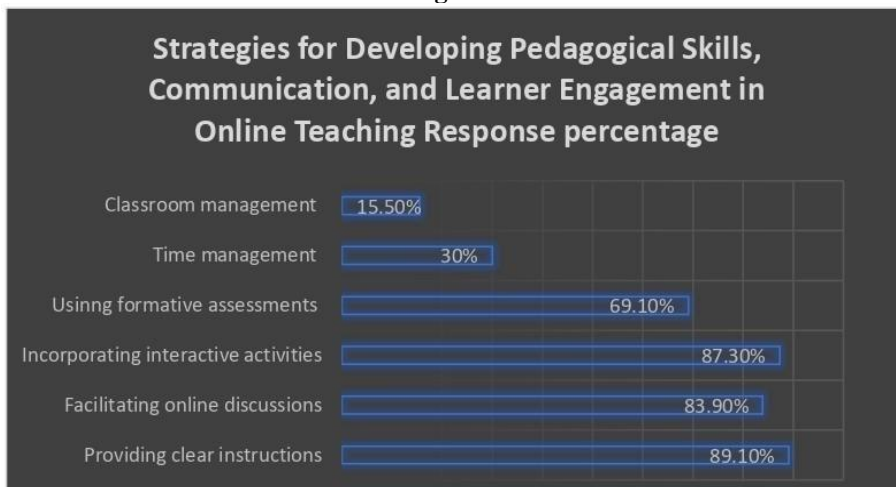
In summary, the responses underscore the importance of training, resources, and practical guidance to support educators in adopting artistic expression skills. They also highlight the need for regulations, copyright considerations, and the integration of these skills into teacher training programs.

Diagram 1.



In conclusion, the journey of teachers becoming actors in the online teaching landscape has empowered them to utilize artistic expression as a powerful tool for communication and engagement. By embracing their newfound skills, educators have the ability to create transformative learning experiences that foster deep connections and facilitate meaningful learning outcomes in the virtual classroom (See Diagram 2).

Diagram 2.



Furthermore, online teaching provides opportunities for teachers to take advantage of visual aids and multimedia resources, such as videos, images, and interactive learning activities, which can enhance the learning experience for students (See Diagram 1).

While being comfortable on camera is important for online teaching, it is not the sole determinant of a teacher's success. Strong pedagogical skills,

effective communication, and the ability to engage learners are also crucial elements of successful online teaching. Teachers can develop these skills through training, practice, and gradually gaining confidence in front of the camera.

VII. Recommendations:

To effectively teach English online, English teachers should possess both academic knowledge and practical skills. They should have expertise in the following key areas and abilities:

1. *Strong knowledge of the English language:* English teachers should have a solid understanding of grammar, vocabulary, syntax, and pronunciation, enabling them to teach the language accurately and effectively.
2. *Familiarity with technology and online teaching tools:* Proficiency in using digital tools such as video conferencing software, learning management systems, and online whiteboards is crucial for facilitating engaging and interactive online English lessons.
3. *Knowledge of online teaching best practices:* English teachers should be familiar with effective strategies and techniques for online teaching, including engaging learners, providing clear instructions, and managing online discussions. This familiarity allows them to create a conducive virtual learning environment.

In addition to academic knowledge, successful online English teachers should possess a set of skills to deliver smooth and effective lessons:

4. *Clear communication:* With online teaching relying on video conferencing, English teachers should have excellent verbal communication skills, ensuring clear pronunciation and effective use of tone and inflection to engage learners effectively.
5. *Time management:* Effective time management is essential for keeping lessons on track and ensuring all learners have ample opportunities to participate actively.
6. *Flexibility and adaptability:* Online teaching can present unexpected situations such as technical difficulties or changes in the lesson plan. English teachers should be adaptable to handle these challenges and modify their approach as needed.
7. *Interpersonal skills:* Building rapport with learners, facilitating discussions, and providing constructive feedback are vital interpersonal skills that enable English teachers to create a supportive and engaging virtual learning environment.

Some examples of how artistic expression can be integrated into online teaching:

- a) *Visual arts*: Online teachers can use images, diagrams, videos, and animations to illustrate concepts, create visual summaries, or present data in an engaging manner.
- b) *Music and audio*: Incorporating music, sound effects, or recorded audio clips can enhance the learning atmosphere, evoke emotions, and support content delivery.
- c) *Drama and storytelling*: Online teachers can incorporate dramatic elements, storytelling techniques, or role-playing activities to make the learning experience more immersive and relatable.
- d) *Multimedia presentations*: Creating interactive multimedia presentations using tools like slide decks, video recordings, or screencasts can capture students' attention and provide an engaging platform for delivering content.
- e) *Digital collaboration*: Encouraging students to collaborate on creative projects, such as designing a digital artwork or producing a video, promotes teamwork, communication, and artistic expression.

Conclusion

Effective online teaching requires the integration of emotional intelligence and artistic expression to create engaging and meaningful learning experiences. The unique challenges posed by online teaching, such as physical distance and limited nonverbal cues, emphasize the importance of emotional intelligence in building connections and promoting student engagement. Educators with well-developed emotional intelligence skills can exhibit empathy, adaptability, and attentiveness, establishing a supportive learning environment and enhancing overall learning outcomes.

Artistic expression, on the other hand, offers a powerful tool for capturing students' attention, stimulating their senses, and fostering comprehension. By incorporating visual, auditory, or kinesthetic elements into online teaching, educators can create immersive and memorable learning experiences that enhance student engagement, promote active participation, and facilitate knowledge retention. Artistic expression also nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and self-expression, equipping students with valuable skills for lifelong learning.

Strategies for incorporating emotional intelligence and artistic expression in online teaching include personalized feedback, adaptability to diverse learning preferences, effective management of emotions, and the use of multimedia resources. Online English teaching, in particular, requires a combination of academic knowledge, practical skills, clear communication, time management, and interpersonal skills. Teachers can further enhance their

teaching through professional development opportunities provided by online teaching platforms, professional organizations, online courses, and social media groups.

By embracing emotional intelligence and incorporating artistic expression, educators can create a vibrant and supportive online learning environment that fosters student engagement, promotes effective communication, and facilitates academic success. As online education continues to expand, the integration of these elements becomes essential for optimizing the learning experience and ensuring the success of both educators and learners.

Human Studies: All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

Conflict of Interest: The author reported no conflict of interest.

Data Availability: All of the data are included in the content of the paper.

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