**Introduction:**

Welcome, and thank you for taking the time to participate in this interview. My name is [Your Name], and we are conducting research on 'Instructor Presence in the Online Classroom.'

This interview will last around 30 to 45 minutes, and your responses will help us understand how instructor presence impacts your learning experience in online courses.

Your participation is voluntary, and all responses will remain confidential and anonymous. Do I have your consent to proceed and to record the interview?"

**Section 1: Background Information**

1. Can you tell me a bit about your background as a student and your experience with online learning?
2. What types of online courses have you completed, and what motivated you to choose online classes?
3. How do your online course experiences compare to traditional in-person learning?

* Follow-up: Have you noticed any differences in your learning experience between online courses taken before and after the COVID-19 pandemic?

1. How do you balance your time and manage distractions in an online learning environment?
2. How important is the personal relationship between student and instructor in an online setting compared to in-person courses?

* Follow-up: Do you think the lack of face-to-face interaction in online learning creates barriers to building trust and rapport with your instructors? Why or why not?

**Section 2: Instructor Presence**

1. In your own words, what does 'instructor presence' mean in an online classroom?
2. Can you recall a time when an instructor's presence significantly impacted your learning experience?

* Follow-up: What specific actions did the instructor take that made a difference?

1. Have you experienced a course where you felt there was a lack of instructor presence? How did that affect your learning?
2. What actions or behaviours from instructors have enhanced your learning experience in online courses?
3. Do you think certain types of classes (e.g., discussion-heavy, lab-based) require more instructor presence than others? Why?
4. How does the way an instructor provides feedback (e.g., written comments, video responses) influence your perception of their presence in the course?

**Section 3: Communication and Interaction**

1. How often did you communicate with your instructors, and through what methods (e.g., email, discussion boards, video calls)?
2. How quickly do you expect instructors to respond to questions or concerns, and how does that affect your learning?
3. What communication strategies have been most effective in keeping you engaged in the course?

* Follow-up: Do you find certain forms of communication (e.g., video vs. written announcements) more effective in establishing instructor presence? Why?

1. Have you ever experienced delayed feedback from an instructor that impacted your motivation or progress in the course?

* Follow-up: Can you describe how that made you feel?

**Section 4: Challenges and Improvements**

1. What challenges have you faced in engaging with instructors in online courses?
2. What tools or resources would make it easier for you to connect with your instructors?

* Follow-up: What role do you think technology plays in the challenges of maintaining instructor presence in online learning?

1. What suggestions would you give to instructors to improve their presence in online learning?

**Section 5: Conclusion**

1. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experiences with instructor presence in online classrooms?
2. What practices or tools would you recommend to ensure better instructor presence in future online courses?
3. Looking back on all of your online learning experiences, what stands out to you as the single most important factor that contributes to an instructor’s presence?
4. If you could design the perfect online course, what specific instructor behaviors, tools, or practices would you include to maximize presence and engagement?
5. How do you think online learning will evolve in the future in terms of instructor-student interaction and presence?

**Final Closing Statement:**

Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts and experiences. Your input is incredibly valuable and will help us gain a deeper understanding of the role of instructor presence in online learning environments.

I want to reassure you that all your responses will remain confidential and will only be used for research purposes. The data collected will be securely stored and anonymized to protect your privacy. If at any point, even after the interview, you wish to withdraw your participation or have concerns about the data, please feel free to reach out. Thank you again for your time and valuable insights.