

The image features a central white rectangular card with a drop shadow, containing the title. This card is positioned in front of a virtual meeting interface. The interface includes a browser-like window at the top with navigation icons and a star icon. On either side of the central card, there are stylized avatars of a man and a woman. Behind them are smaller windows showing a grid of four avatars in cyan, purple, and green, representing other participants in the meeting.

5 Ways to Build Strong and Meaningful Virtual Connections

Building meaningful relationships is never easy—and working remotely can make it that much harder. But, remote work doesn't need to come at the cost of human connections.

With some thoughtful planning, you can start building strong relationships with remote co-workers and strengthen overall team dynamics. Consider the following tips:

- 1. Be mindful of word choice.** When relying on written communication, words should be used carefully, because individuals won't be able to pick up on nonverbal cues.
- 2. Use video features.** Encourage teammates to use their webcams during meetings instead of only using audio. Video chatting can provide the visual cues that are missing from written and verbal communications.
- 3. Respect everyone's time.** When scheduling meetings, include an agenda and invite only the people necessary to complete the objective. Also, consider sending out meeting notes to inform the larger team.
- 4. Don't be all business.** Ask your co-workers open-ended questions and give them a chance to talk as much or as little as they'd like. Personal and casual conversations can help create bonds with your co-workers.
- 5. Plan team-building activities.** Plan or ask for team-building activities or events, such as virtual trivia and virtual board games.

Remember, regardless of location, you are still part of a team. Talk to your manager if you have any questions or concerns.