

DISTANCE LEARNING: IT'S NOT LIKE IT USED TO BE



**PRESENTED BY June Preszler
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Outcomes

Participants will engage in discussion regarding

- ▣ Differences between online and traditional learning and teaching experiences
- ▣ Characteristics of effective online learners
- ▣ Innovative but simple online tools used to enhance distance learning

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Learning and Teaching Phases

INTEGRATION: Learning is facilitated when new knowledge is integrated into the learner's world.

ACTIVATION: Learning is facilitated when existing knowledge is activated as a foundation for new knowledge.

PROBLEM: Learning is facilitated when learners are engaged in solving real-world problems.


APPLICATION: Learning is facilitated when new knowledge is applied by the learner

DEMONSTRATION: Learning is facilitated when new knowledge is demonstrated to the learner.

McMillan (2001) First Principles of Instruction, Educational Technology Research & Development, Utah State University

Differences Between Online and Traditional Learning and Teaching Experiences

Assumptions about learning and teaching

Experience	 Traditional	Online
Concept of the learner	Dependent personality	Increasingly self-directed
Role of learner's experience	To be built on more than used as a resource	A rich resource for learning by self and others
Readiness to learn	Uniform by age-level & curriculum	Develops from life tasks & problems
Orientation to learning	Subject-centered	Task- or problem-centered
Motivation	By external rewards and punishment	By internal incentives curiosity

Source: Knowles, M.S. (1992). *Adult Learning*.

Articulating understandings, raising questions, and examining others' assertions

As a learner, what do you notice about the table describing the assumptions about learning and teaching?

As a **traditional** learner, what questions does this raise for you?

As an **online** learner, what questions does this raise for you?

Respond to your partner's thinking.

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Distance Education

Perception

- Easy
- Less demanding
- For those who can't make it any other way
- Independent
- Frees up time
- Unscheduled

Reality

- Convenient
- Rigorous and challenging
- Option for those open to the nontraditional
- Interdependent
- Eats up time
- Self-disciplined

What Does It Take?

- ▣ To be a successful online learner:
 - Possesses Internet comfort level and access
 - Demonstrates adequate (or better) writing skills
 - Is able to develop a time management strategy
 - Consistently interacts in online discussions
 - Shows a willingness to ask questions
 - Has a sense of self-motivation
 - Works with effective online instructors

Roper, Alan R.. "[How Students Develop Online Learning Styles.](#)" *EDUCAUSE Quarterly* 30.1 (2007): 62-65.

Schall, Daniel, Stephanie Schmidt, Kristan Stewart-Burns, and Scott Stiverson. "A Critical Look at Online Learners and Teachers." [Center for Online Educators Home Page](#). 3 Apr. 2008
<<http://educatoronline.org/criticallookarticle.htm>>.

What Does It Take?

- Qualities of the successful online instructor:
 - Is able to let go of traditional teaching concepts and give up some control
 - Encourages a learning community that empowers the learner
 - Understands online processes, possesses strong technical skills
 - Demonstrates online moderation/communication skills
 - Possesses topic knowledge
 - Asks probing, higher level questions

Schall, Daniel , Stephanie Schmidt, Kristan Stewart-Burns, and Scott Stiverson. "A Critical Look at Online Learners and Teachers." [Center for Online Educators Home Page](http://educatoronline.org/criticallookarticle.htm). 3 Apr. 2008 <<http://educatoronline.org/criticallookarticle.htm>>.

Palloff, Rena, and Keith Pratt. *Lessons from the Cyberspace Classroom*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001.

Innovative Yet Simple Online Tools

SurveyMonkey

<http://www.surveymonkey.com>

Web-based text documents

Writeboard <http://writeboard.com/>

Google docs <http://docs.google.com/>

Tapped In

<http://tappedin.org/tappedin/>

<http://www.k12.sd.us/WebCT/>

<http://webct6.k12.sd.us/webct/entryPageInns.dowebct>

<http://pls.blackboard.com/>

What Do You Think?

- A strong student in the traditional classroom will translate into a strong student online.
- An effective classroom teacher will be an effective online instructor.
- Three-Minute Pause: Discuss with an elbow partner
- Our Writeboard discussion area:
 - ▣ <http://writeboard.com/f60af4482f782d0e1>
 - ▣ Password: TIE08

Power to the Introvert

- ▣ Distance education could well be the introvert's stomping ground.
 - Introverts appear extroverted online
 - Introverts are better able to take time, reflect, and present themselves through text; they are less dependent upon face-to-face interaction
 - “Introverts are more adept at creating a virtual environment because they process information internally and are less outgoing socially.” (Palloff and Pratt)

Palloff, Rena, and Keith Pratt. *Lessons from the Cyberspace Classroom*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001.

One Final Online Tool

BibMe: Online bibliography tool

for MLA, APA, Chicago

Tool used to cite references in this presentation

<http://www.bibme.org/>

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