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Annotated Bibliography

Angiello, Roanne. “Study Looks At Online Learning Vs. Traditional Instruction.”


In this article the US Department of Education conducted a study through meta-analysis to study the effectiveness of online learning compared to traditional face to face teaching. A few of the things researchers were hoping to find was if online instruction enhances learning, what makes online learning more effective, and what conditions influence the effectiveness of online learning. What they found is that classes with a combined face to face and online instruction performed better than strictly face to face or online. The study showed online learners spent more time on task which had a greater benefit but this could be because typically more motivated students are the ones taking classes online and the less motivated are not. Another caution to be taken with the study is that a student could have learned everything from their face to face interaction and used what they already knew to complete the online portion or vice versa. Another variable in this experiment is the teacher. A good teacher can make all the difference and could sway results.

“Instructors’ Vantage Point: Teaching Online Vs. Face-To-Face.” *Chronicle Of Higher Education*


This article offers a few different perspectives of teachers who have taught both online and traditional courses. The first teacher taught the same course for his first time online and in person. His first year teaching online started rough because he already had the materials for his class and it was hard to find a way to mimic his lessons over a computer screen and he had to alter a few of his assignments. He loved teaching face to face because he could hear his students on person but once some of the online students began to post videos and such he began to like that as well. Now he integrates some of the things he does online with his face to face course. Teacher number two expressed that online students need to work hard as they work all hours of the day due to different geographical regions. This also makes working in groups hard and advice from peers is almost non existent. He mentioned teaching at home is not always easy and while electronic assignments are environmentally friendly it makes it hard for him to give
feedback as well. Teacher three talked about the downside of online education in the fact that you can not bend time. He found it very hard to interact with his students because there was never a guarantee anyone would be there. Even having the students interact was hard because no one was ever on the same schedule. He eventually gave up and made the course more of a “composition in a box” sort of thing.


In this article, Milliron talks about the feud between online and traditional schooling. Both think they are superior to the other when in fact, they both are. He informs us that both are necessary, but neither is sufficient. He discusses the huge decrease America has had with its youth graduating from higher education programs. Neither online, nor traditional courses are seeming to keep kids in school. To him the difference of online and traditional is just a difference of learning styles and that is not the issue we should be concerned about.

“Online Education Experience.” Personal Interview. 28 Mar. 2015

My friend, Emily Hopes, was actually able to take a few classes online through SLCC and the JATC as well as through BYU Independent Study. I was able to interview her about her experience with online education. She has taken two classes online and had two very different experiences with her courses. The first was through BYU and she was not thrilled with the experience that she had. She informed me the class had no teacher guidance and she was expected to do everything on her own, which she did not like. The second course was through SLCC and the JATC which she enjoyed very much. The course was all online but there was a teacher present when taking tests and studying to help aid the students. This made for the course to be more enjoyable and have a better outcome.


This article discusses how online college will not only make it cheaper, but it will also make college as a whole better. One major way it will help make it better is that billions of people will be able to get education for a cheaper cost. Anyone around the world can take classes from somewhere such as MIT and afford it. It also gives you a flexible schedule and has proven through studies to be good at teaching subject content and helps to better prepare kids for tests. He also mentions a few disadvantages to online. Some of these include no personal connections, team and group work, and public speaking. In spite of this MIT is developing a blended course that hopefully will include the best of both worlds.

This article addresses the issue of how people who are not highly motivated or highly skilled will struggle with online courses. Some people need interaction with other students and their teacher in order to succeed. Research has shown people who take courses at community college are more likely to fail or drop out than those in traditional classes. Online courses for low performing students could be detrimental to their money, time, and education. This is because many of these students come unprepared to learn and unable to manage their time. They lack confidence and need to be engaged by a teacher to feel comfortable.


In this article they discuss how much online education is growing. Almost half of all e-learning programs in the US are through community college and 97% of community colleges offer online courses. With almost half of beginning freshman starting off at the community level more than 60% of them are enrolling in online courses. Data shows the growth for online college far exceeds the growth in overall higher education enrollments. Another great point it made was suggesting that online may not attract new students but may help keep existing students in school.


In this article they discuss more of the teachers perspective of an online course verses the students. A survey was sent out in 2012 to teachers teaching online and this is where the information comes from. Many of the teachers felt as though they were more a routine worker as they were not encouraged to change their courses. They felt disconnected from the university as they didn’t know anyone. Many of the courses were simply a black box course and didn’t have a lot of access to student feedback, attrition, and grades. Also the article noted that these teachers may be making as little as 24,000 a year before taxes. Online education may sound great, but online teaching doesn’t seem to have much of an appeal.

In this article, Mr. David Youngberg talks about his experience with taking a MOOC (massive open online course). He came to realize that there are five major problems with these courses. First, it's too easy to cheat. When you take away the classroom setting, it becomes much easier and our honor codes seem to slip away. Second, networking is very hard and star students don’t shine. One of the greatest things you can receive from a teacher is a letter or recommendation. If you aren’t in a classroom setting and you don't really know your teacher, how are suppose to get a good letter or rec? Third, employers avoid weird people. If an employer was interviewing someone with an online degree and someone with a traditional degree they would most likely choose the person with the traditional degree. Fourth, computers can’t grade everything. There are some things in life the computer can’t see such as verbal and communication skills. Lastly, money can’t substitute for higher education. Higher education helps people to have better salaries and a college degree is a signal that you are hardworking and smart.