

Pedagogies have strengths and weaknesses within different learning formats. To start, let's define pedagogy. Wikipedia (n.d.) defines *pedagogy* as a discipline that deals with the theory and practice of teaching. Pedagogy informs teaching strategies, judgments and decisions by taking into consideration theories of learning, understandings of students and their needs, and the backgrounds and interests of individual students.

Various online learning formats have the potential to provide learners with customized education (Lips, 2010). Students can receive instruction at their own pace, and the material can be presented in a manner that is tailored to specific learning styles. Customizing the learning will allow for more accurate feedback when assessing a student, versus assessing them in a setting with other students where the instruction might not be tailored to their specific learning style. Through online or virtual learning, students can learn anytime and at their own pace. Social presence (Swan and Shih, 2005) can also be important to students when receiving instruction through various online learning methods. An example of social presence is through online discussion boards where students learn from each other, by giving their feedback and reading and responding to other viewpoints. Getting different viewpoints and perspectives builds on their foundation of learning, and creates a real-world experience.

Some of the weaknesses of delivering learning in various online formats can be for students who need in-person instruction so that they can interact one-on-one with the teacher in a classroom setting. It also doesn't always allow for students to have direct access to an instructor if they need immediate feedback and direction when working on a project. Many times, in online settings when interacting with an instructor or other classmates, you have to wait until they log in to review your questions and respond. That could allow for issues when

trying to meet assignment deadlines. If the content delivered requires very intimate one-on-one interaction with an instructor, online learning probably isn't the best way to receive the material.

One of the methods I thought was very effective, especially in higher education, was the story-centered curriculum. The story-centered curriculum is a carefully designed apprenticeship-style learning experience in which the student encounters a planned sequence of real-world situations constructed to motivate the development and application of knowledge and skills in an integrated fashion (Schank, 2007). This curriculum is presented in such a way that it is the most realistic I have found for the learner to experience what they need to know specific to learning and performance. The learner is presented a story which they are part of, and face a progression of challenges which stretch or build on their abilities. Some of the strengths of this type of learning is that the students experience what they would entail in real-life as they are challenged. Some of the limitations are that students who are not motivated by this type of learning, who like to read and take tests for example, find this to be too much work. The content of the story is given to the learner online, and then they go out into the real-world scenario depending on the particular story to do their research, collaborate with teammates, and working with their mentors. This type of learning is a great way to prepare students (especially college) for the real-world experiences.

Learning is important to prepare for the real-world. Once you leave your learning environment, you should be able to apply it in your real life to assist you in being successful. What better way to learn, than in real-life situations? I found story-centered learning to be very effective.

## References

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