

Old School vs. New School Teaching

Our society has come to the point where we no longer need to go places or do as much as we used to. Today it is as simple as a click of a button. We are at a point where our education system is that same way as well. Online courses enable to a person to complete their whole education online. Even though it might bring more of a variety of opportunities to a person, the real question starts to come up; is it liable? Representative Kristin Olsen said that traditional education is “irreplaceable,” but that it is also okay to expand. In an online course the student has to be the one to stay focused and motivated like a regular class but it still does not compare to a face-to-face classroom environment. It also brings up the issue if the student is really the one behind the screen? Also unlike a traditional classroom, online courses do not require the student to develop more independence, critical thinking, the opinion of other and the discussion of a regular classroom. Compared to online courses a traditional face-to-face education can never be replaced.

Traditional old school education can never be replaced with an online course because it does not allow the students to be interactive, critical thinkers, and social. Online courses are okay but they do not obtain the same interaction as if you were in a real classroom. For example, a student can voice and hear the opinion of others in a classroom. They can hear the different opinions, sides, and even the depth of a topic when they are in a classroom. In his article John

Villasenor says, “These include the body language of the students that an alert instructor will observe and use in modulating the pace and content of the discussion, the pauses and inflections in student questions that would escape capture by a microphone, and the dynamism that occurs because each student, sitting among different neighbors at a unique location in the room, experiences and engages with the class slightly differently” (Villasenor). It is not the same if they read it online they can live it in person. Also in her article Susan Lowes states that, “In the online environment, a whole host of issues-including teacher-student and student-student communication, the extent and nature of reflection, student accountability, and assessment--are very different from the face to-face classroom” (Lowes). Compared to online courses the student is isolated and not interaction with anyone other than typing on the computer. How can a student be challenged if they do not have someone to challenge them? “Teaching in the truest sense is what occurs when a committed instructor gets in a room with a group of equally committed students and engages them in an interactive, probing and challenging treatment of a subject” (Villasenor) John Villasenor states. Face-to-face traditional teaching is better for the student compared to online courses.

The simple fact of just getting up in the morning and getting ready to go to class is a big deal. John Villasenor states that, “A course is also made effective by the unscripted interactions that occur as students gather before and after the class, and by the simple fact that the physical act of getting to class requires at least some investment of time and energy” (Villasenor). So, how can a student be fully motivated if they do not even put as much effort into going into class? In an online course the student can be in their pajamas and take the class and not even care as much. The plain fact of them having to wake up at a certain time to go to class and be on time rather than take the class whenever they feel like it is not showing that the student will give it

their full effort. “To be successful in online courses, students need to be self-motivated, well organized, and independent learners, but at the same time, taking online courses can help students to develop these characteristics” (Lowes). Online course may have that benefit but it skill will not help develop lifelong still like in a traditional classroom course. For example, they will not develop the skill of being prepared for the class because in an online course they can have the material in front of them and they might not put as much effort as they would in a real classroom course.

Are online courses really vital? It does have its benefits like, Hamid Shirvani states that “through online education, universities and colleges can increase student enrolment and expand their course offerings at a lower cost than through traditional classes. Online classes can often enroll a larger number of students because the size of the classes are not limited to the size of the available classrooms, and the universities do not have to build additional, expensive facilities to house additional students and courses” (Shirvani). It does have benefits like those and a couple more but one cannot beat the traditional face-to-face online courses. It has worked up until this point, so who says it still won’t work in the future?

Has our society really come to the point where we no longer need a classroom? Compared to online courses a traditional face-to-face education can never be replaced. Even though it does have certain benefits it does not compare to a good traditional face-to-face classroom environment. Online courses can be vital to a student who is not self-motivated and does not decide to take the easy road and not put as much effort as they would in a real classroom. Compared to online courses a traditional face-to-face education can never be replaced. Online courses might be the “new thing” in today’s society but it also might not be the best for it.

Work Cite

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