

The Capabilities of Online and Face to Face Education

Higher education is an important step in life that many people want to achieve. This type of education has been expanding throughout the years in technology resources, and even in certain study courses. Nowadays, there are plenty of colleges that have become available for many students to attend. However, attending college has been a problem for certain people who have obstacles in their schedules that keep them from physically attending college. On one hand, online education is an option that has been growing these past years and that many people see as an opportunity to receive a higher education without actually sitting in class. On the other hand, people question whether online education is having the same effect on a student who is receiving face to face education. An investigator, Charlotte Neuhauser compared a study that she did and she concludes that “Ninety-six percent of the online students found the course to be either as effective as or more effective to their learning than their typical face-to-face course.” Many people do not see the difference that online education and traditional education have, but there are several differences that can impact a student’s education. Even though online education is a much faster way to be enrolled in college, I believe it will never replace the impact face to face education has on a student. In my opinion, I believe face to face education is the best way to receive a higher education.

Face to face education has the advantage of giving students a better visualization experience during class. For example, during a science class, a student is able to participate in

labs and interact with what they are learning about. When they are taking an online class, they are limited to what they can work on and they will only be able to see what is being shown on the computer screen in front of them. Computer screens are not vividly showing the same exact thing as you would see in person, so it would be hard for a student to understand what the lesson is about when they can't even see it clearly on screen. The author from the article, "Online versus Traditional Face-to-Face Learning in a Large Introductory Course", concludes that "students in the online course were significantly less satisfied with the course on several dimensions" (Hauck). Face to face learning will provide students with in depth details about their assignments and lessons and students will become more satisfied with their courses.

When students are physically sitting in class, they have the ability to ask questions and interact with the professor and people around them. As the authors from the article, "Overcoming Student Resistance to Group Work: Online Versus Face-to-Face" reveal "Because of OL norms of working individually and asynchronously, OL students were less satisfied with group work. Also, because of fewer channels of communication, lack of the immediacy of f2f meetings and other differences in the two learning environments, OL students were less able to resolve logistical difficulties associated with group work." (Martinez). Martinez states that students who take online courses are less likely to have good communication skills with others. I believe that it is important to interact with people around you, so that you can better your communication skills and build self-confidence. If you are just sitting in a room in front of a computer screen, you have nobody to interact with or get help from. That's when physically attending school is important; because it will help you build your social life as well as your education.

Online education does not have a lot of effect on teaching students a lesson thoroughly. Research has shown that students taking face to face courses have had higher test scores than

those taking online courses. A study examined the connection between students learning ways and their achievement in the two different learning styles, online and traditional styles. And one of the results from the study was that “students in the traditional learning group had higher, but not statistically significant higher, levels of achievement than students in the online learning group”, (Zacharis). Although the scores were slightly different, it still proves that the face to face style of teaching will become at least a little more effective in learning than the online style of teaching. .

Another issue that online education will face is the necessity to prepare online teachers to be able to tutor students online. According to an article, “Face-to-face versus online tutoring support in distance education”, “To make online tuition successful both tutors and students need training in how to communicate online in the absence of paralinguistic cues” (Price, Richardson, and Jelfs). It will be very difficult for students to understand an online class right off the bat, so they need certain technology and online study skills to prepare for online classes. It will not be easy for students to pass online classes when they don’t understand how to take the class in the first place. Whereas, face to face classes tend to go smoother for new students and they will be able to adapt to the classroom environment almost right away. Furthermore, it will take a much longer time to recruit teachers and tutors online. You have to be very careful when you’re teaching online because you are teaching over a computer screen and you are not able to interact with your students one on one.

This also brings up the question of cheating behind the computer screen. According to Judy Heiman, an analyst with the Legislative Analyst’s Office, “cheating may be a problem for online instruction.” Many people believe that it is much easier to cheat while taking an online course. When you are not able to see your students, you are not able to tell if they are being

honest with their work or not. They can easily be searching the web for answers, or they can have someone right next to them helping them take that test. If they were to be sitting in the class, teachers will be able to keep them under surveillance, especially when taking test and important assignments.

Teachers are never fully sure when they are teaching an online course, which is why face to face education has been sticking around all these years. It goes from dealing with trust issues to not being able to interact with peers when taking online courses. Like I mentioned earlier, it is very important to maintain a social life when attending school and it is important that we are able to trust your professors and peers. There are issues and advantages that both online and face to face courses may have; however, online education will never replace the traditional education.

Works Cited

Christopher D. Martinez, et al. "Overcoming Student Resistance To Group Work: Online Versus Face-To-Face." *Internet And Higher Education* 14.2 (2011): 121-128. *ERIC*. Web. 9 Nov. 2011.

Ferguson, Janet, and Anne Marie Tryjankowski. "Online versus face-to-face learning: looking at modes of instruction in Master's-level courses." *Journal of Further & Higher Education* 33.3 (2009): 219-228. *Academic Search Elite*. EBSCO. Web. 27 Oct. 2011.

Hauck, William A. "Online Versus Traditional Face-To-Face Learning In A Large Introductory Course." *Journal Of Family And Consumer Sciences* 98.4 (2006): 27-29. *ERIC*. Web. 9 Nov. 2011.

Heiman, Judy. "Perspectives In Higher Education." CSU Stanislaus. Turlock, CA. 25 October 2011.

Neuhauser, Charlotte. "Learning Style and Effectiveness of Online and Face-to-Face Instruction." 26 Oct 2011

Price, Linda, John T. E. Richardson, and Anne Jelfs. "Face-to-face versus online tutoring support in distance education." *Studies in Higher Education* 32.1 (2007): 1-20.

Zacharis, Nick Z. "The Impact of Learning Styles On Student Achievement In A Web-Based Versus An Equivalent Face-To Face Course." *College Student Journal* 44.3 (2010): 591-597. *Academic*

Search Elite. EBSCO. Web. 26 Oct. 2011.