

Online Classes vs. Traditional Classrooms

Comparing the modern society to the past proves a substantial difference. In the past, there was little or no internet access to the students. The only way for the students to receive their education was to go to school and physically be in the classroom. However, as our society steps towards the future, more students are now having access to the internet in their home. As technology advances and spreads, it can help one's life as a student to become easier. Students today have control over their education; they can choose to take their classes online or do it the old-fashioned way, which is to physically attend the classroom. Both of the types, online classes and traditional classrooms have their advantages and disadvantages but how can students know which one is the best for them? Which method will benefit them in the long run? Since traditional classrooms have been around for so long and have resulted in many successful students, why are online classes being promoted? No matter what the situation may be, students should still receive their education by physically attending their classes.

Students will benefit in the long run from learning in a traditional classroom. However, looking at the issue from another viewpoint that supports online classes, Qiyun Wang and Huay Lit Woo, both are an assistant professors at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, stated that "online [classes offer] the convenience and flexibility in terms of time and place" (qtd. in Wang and Woo). This advantage is great for many students who have jobs or are a single parent because they have the ability to adjust their class schedule to fit within their needs. Then again if the students are not motivated when taking their classes online with a watchful eye

making sure they get their work done, they can potentially fail. Also, many students tend to lack enthusiasm when they are not surrounded by their classmates and actively interact with them. Online classes cause the “removal of humanity [which] can lead to an antiseptic and boring learning environment” (qtd. in Weiss). On the contrary, “traditional classrooms settings [will] allow the teacher a better opportunity to properly engage and inspire [the] students” (Carter); thus proving that the students will be more motivated and successful if they are physically in the classroom. No matter which method a student decides to do, either online classes or traditional classrooms, they are still paying for those courses even if they failed them. Time and money are hold to be very precious to most people. So in order to not waste any time and money, traditional classrooms have a higher chance for the students to pass their courses the first time. In order for students to strive, traditional classrooms provide students with immediate assistance.

Learning in a traditional classroom will allow the students to become more successful. However, Kristin Olsen who represents the 25th Assembly District for California mentioned that “online classes are expanding opportunities for higher education.” Dr. Hamid Shirvani, president of California State University, Stanislaus, also agreed, believing “online education is the major innovation that will allow universities and colleges to provide quality education” (Burgio). While it is true that online classes can increase opportunities for higher education and deliver quality education, it also has its drawbacks. In an online class, students do not have the option to physically interact with other human beings; instead, they are simply interacting with the computer’s hardware. (qtd. in Weiss). “Unlike an online class, the teacher can give the students one-on-one attention if they are struggling in the class[room]” (Burgio). This clearly shows that traditional classrooms permit students to physically ask for help and/or clarification from their classmates and teacher if needed. It is said that “feedback from [the teacher and] other students

assists in testing ideas, refining positions, and improving critical thinking skills” (qtd. in Baglione and Nastanski); therefore verify that traditional classrooms help teachers offer students the best learning environment (Poulou). Students cannot excel or receive quality education if they do not understand what they are learning by themselves online. The only way any students can excel and receive quality education is from traditional classrooms, where help and/or clarification are immediately granted to the students. Additionally, traditional classrooms provide other valuable benefits to the students than online classes do.

It is very effective for the students to learn in a traditional classroom. Yet a great aspect of online classes is “not having face-to-face contact with the professor and fellow students” (qtd. in Weiss). There are many students who simply enjoy learning in the comfort of their own home, while some students who are not social would prefer to not have any types of interactions and/or relationships with their classmates and teacher; instead, they desire viewing words and illustrations from their computer screen (qtd. in Weiss). However, students who take online classes are “lack[ing] audio and kinesthetic clues” (qtd. in Weiss). For many students, they may perceive nonverbal acts and the interactions among the classmates and teacher are not important aspects in a learning environment, however, they are. There are also students who simply learn better by audio and visual; it is their learning styles. So for students whose learning styles are audio and visual, they may do more harm to themselves if they decide to take online classes rather than traditional classrooms. “Professors’ and students’ facial expressions can add meaning to a message”, as well as, “it is important to know not only *what* is being said but also *how* it is said” (qtd. in Weiss). Distinguishing nonverbal cues and interpreting people’s messages correctly are very important social skills that are useful in the working environments and in reality overall (Carter). Furthermore, students will gain more profits from traditional classrooms.

Students are more successful if they physically attend their classes. Although it may be difficult for students who have jobs or have to take care of their child(ren) or a family member to attend classes, the benefits of it outweighs online classes. Attending classes physically can assure any students of higher possibilities of passing the course their first time, saving you time and money, because when you surround yourself with people, you tend to be more motivated to do your work. Despite the fact that traditional classrooms do not allow students to learn in their pajamas while laying bed, it does permit students to get an instant response when asking for help and/or clarification from their classmates and teacher. There is nothing more frustrating and stressful to a student than not understanding what you are learning. Traditional classrooms also expose students to audio and nonverbal cues that online classes lack of as well. No matter how many negative aspects traditional classrooms have compared to online classes, its positive effectiveness on students will always outweigh online classes; this is clearly proven by how many successful students there are within the school setting. In the long run, traditional classrooms possess more values than online classes that can impact the students for the best.

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