

Online Instructions VS Face to Face Classrooms

Controversial issues regarding higher education in California are inevitable to the world of free speech, thought and opinion. They give rise to debate and possible public disagreement. A common hot topic about higher education is the matter of online instruction versus face-to-face classrooms. New advances in technology are surfacing in our society. They've gone so far as to reach classrooms. The courses taught in these classes are transferred from a classroom to your desktop. The development of this method of learning has given students another choice on how to approach his or her education. Most students spend a majority of their free time in front of a computer when they are at home, thus the idea of taking an online class is very appealing and convenient. This access to online instruction is as beneficial as can be. Online instruction is far more superior to face-to-face classrooms because it makes it possible for students to do homework on their computers, it grants the advantage of taking an entire course in the safety/comfort of his or her own homes, and also a sudden spike in the cost in tuition could be an inevitable problem faced by many college students.

Online courses are classes that are available to students and are accessible to almost any computer. In today's society, Wi-Fi hotspots are spread all over which allows anyone with a laptop a connection to the World Wide Web. In a website explaining the pros and cons of online courses, the anonymous author writes, "For most online schools, all course information is obtained by browsing the Internet and sending/receiving email" (P3). If you are using a laptop

everything you need for school is literally at your fingertips. You can use the internet to solve or check homework answers you are not sure of. You can also email the professor of the course or fellow classmates when in need of assistance.

Commuting back and forth from town to town is a major problem for some students. Staying home and being able to learn a subject beats spending money on needs of transportation. For most, there is no place better than home. Plus, there is a computer with internet access in almost every house. A home is a safe environment and a quiet place, usually. Sometimes there are troublesome students in class that distract others by being loud or with irrelevant remarks. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to do all your work in the peacefulness of your own home?

It might seem as if a face-to-face approach in a classroom is beneficial as well because you get that classroom experience which includes communication with your instructor, freedom to ask all the questions to your instructor, freedom to ask all the questions you find necessary and the interactive experience of having classmates you can connect with. In an article of the Los Angeles times, author John Villasenor wrote, "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 P4). Teaching happens when the teacher does his duties and not only gives information but gets involved with the students. Unlike an online class were you are most likely fed information with no contact whatsoever.

It's a sad fact but nothing is flawless and everything has its downfalls. In an online article, Dr. Hamid Shirvani states, "Tuition at private institutions has skyrocketed, putting them out of reach for most students" (Shirvani P1). Just recently tuition has increased, making higher

education unavailable for most students. Students that are ready for college have to go to a junior college until they get the money to pay off tuition itself. More and more students are seeking education every year, eventually there will be a need for more room. Tuition and other fees will be increased to build extra classes and space.

Online education opens new doors and possibilities for students to accomplish their goals and get the career of their dreams. It provides a smooth and steady route for students who do not want to deal with the problems that other students face, like going to campus daily. It is possible for students to do homework on their computers, and it is also possible for them to take entire courses in the safety and comfort of their homes. The convenience and genius of a program like this is almost criminal.

Works Cited

Heiman, Judy.

Jaggard, Shanna Smith. Bailey, Thomas. "Effectiveness of Fully Online Courses for College Students: Response to a Department of Education Meta-Analysis."

<https://blackboard.csustan.edu/bbcswebdav/courses/2114-MDIS1200-001/2114-MDIS1200-001_ImportedContent_20111018104325/online%20education%20effectiveness%20for%20disadvantaged%20students.pdf>

"Online vs. Classroom Learning Pros and Cons." Technical & Vocational School Guide. Web.

09 Nov. 2011. <http://www.technical-vocational-schools.com/online_classroom_learning.aspx>.

Riggs, Jim Dr.

Shirvani, Hamid. "Online Learning: The Future | Central Valley Business Journal." Welcome to the Central Valley Business Journal Online. Web. 09 Nov. 2011.

<<http://www.cvbizjournal.com/columns/online-learning-the-future.html>>.

Villasenor, John. "The Disconnect of Online Teaching - Latimes.com." Los Angeles Times – California, National and World News - Latimes.com. Web. 09 Nov. 2011.

<<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-villasenor-online-university-20110928,0,4018312.story>>.