

Online Instruction vs. Face to Face Classroom

As the years go by, technology seems to advance quicker than lightning. With technology being so advanced now, it seems like we can do just about anything. For example, there are jobs that can be done through computer or we can even receive a higher education with the click of a mouse. Online instruction vs. face to face classroom has become a popular topic in education. If we take the moment to think about it we come to the conclusion that both may have advantages and disadvantages and people may prefer one over the other for specific reasons. In my case, I believe that being in a face to face environment is the right way to receive a higher education. We can interact with one another, ask questions, and have a better understanding of the lessons. Although I believe a face to face classroom has more advantages, I still believe there are a few advantages for online instruction as well. In the article *Students' Feelings of and Desire for Sense of Community in Face-to-Face and Online Courses* the authors Michelle Drouin and Lesa Vartanian state, "The rising popularity and availability of online education has brought about concerns of the quality of online courses..." (Drouin, Vartanian). I completely agree with Drouin and Vartanian because there are so many disadvantages of online instruction.

Being in a face to face classroom rather than taking an online course is a lot better. I tend to work better with a group of people and I do not like having to learn by myself. If I do, I get too distracted and do not even focus on what I am doing. Being in a face to face environment allows us to interact with our classmates and help each other have a better understanding. Whereas if we are taking an online course we have no one to discuss anything with so if we do

not understand something we are not able to ask anyone around us because we are not in a classroom. Dr. Jim Riggs from the perspectives of higher education forum also believes we should have interaction with our colleagues and believes we will have a better understanding in a face to face classroom and we have the opportunity to ask our professor questions. (Riggs)

Taking a course without even having understanding to it is pointless. What happens if we do not understand what the lesson is about? Being in a classroom gives us the opportunity to actually ask questions if we do not understand something, whereas having an online course we can probably still ask the question but we will not receive the same understanding. Another advantage of asking questions in person is that the professor can give us an example so we get a better understanding. Again interaction also plays a part of asking questions. In an instructors point of view in the article *Teaching Online vs. Face-to-Face*, Regina McMenemy states, "...I often learned about a lot of great music, but also because my students were able to see, feel, and hear poetry in a way that related to their lives" (McMenemy). That is the idea I agree with the most because having something in person and actually seeing it, we get a much better understanding. If we need more understanding we can also ask one of our classmates sitting next to us and maybe we will understand it even better the way they explain it than how the professor explained it.

Have the opportunity to ask a question when being in a face to face environment leads us to having a better understanding of the lesson as well. Being in a classroom, we tend to pay more attention because the professor is lecturing and asking questions. On the other hand taking an online course, "you can be in your pajamas and run to the kitchen real quick" just how Dr. Jims Riggs stated at the perspectives of higher education forum (Riggs). I completely agree with Riggs statement because if we are at home on taking the course online, there are many

distractions around us. We have the television close to us, our phone, and let's not mention the computer right in front of us. Even when I am doing homework on the computer I get distracted and open up a new page in Google Chrome and I stop doing my homework, so it would be exactly the same way when taking an online course.

With the advantages of face to face classrooms to receive a higher education, online instruction comes next. Even though I prefer face to face classrooms, online instruction also has some advantages and disadvantages. Judy Heiman from the perspectives of higher education forum states many advantages of online courses. For example, online courses provide the opportunity to take courses in different places, it is possible for courses to be successful and available to more students, and it can increase instruction as well. Her view on disadvantages includes fewer students completing the course and even cheating (Heiman). I completely agree with Heiman because sometimes we even slack off when we are actually attending classes regularly, so we have a higher chance of slacking off with an online course which leads to not completing it. The article *Are the Functions of Teachers in e-Learning and Face-to-Face Learning Environments Really Different?* States, "Online teaching is offered with the aim, on the one hand, of providing an alternative for those students who have difficulties in attending classes in the traditional manner, and on the other, of promoting teaching methods that allow teachers to make use of new advances in communication technology" (Diaz). With Laura Diaz's quote she shows us a good point and an advantage of online instruction. There are many people that for one reason or another cannot attend class regularly.

Cheating is also a big disadvantage. While others are at school having to pay attention then getting home and studying, it is definitely not fair for the ones cheating and getting a good grade on the online course they are taking. In the article *Online Versus Face-to-Face Learning:*

Looking at Modes of Instruction in Master's-level Courses, Janet Ferguson states, "According to some educators, online learning is one of the most important and significant new instructional approaches available for improving teaching and learning in schools today (Ferguson). I agree with Ferguson because online instruction can also be a big advantage just like Oshen makes her point. Kirsten Oshen from the perspectives of higher education forum makes a good point though. What happens to those living in places not close to a college such as Mariposa and Calaveras? Either they would have to commute back and forth or they move close to the college, so that is another way that online courses become helpful. Being a single parent, having young children, and even working are when online courses also come in and really help people out (Oshen).

Online instruction vs. face to face classroom in order to receive a higher education has become a hot topic to think about. There are ways to benefit from both of them but there are also disadvantages for both. Although we have the ability to take online courses, I still believe that face to face should stay as the way to receiving a higher education. The interaction we get with others, I feel like helps us better understand what the lesson is about. Not only that but we can even form study groups with the people we meet. Both are great but face to face instruction should remain the main way of receiving higher education.