

Help with Improving Classroom Teaching -An Instructional Designer's Reflection

Learners of 21st century are required to possess certain skills in order for them to succeed in their future career. Traditional teacher and student model is challenged due to changes in ways and amount of information acquired nowadays. Today's educators also face learners of 21st century who are exposed to a variety of technologies that they grow up with while many educators are not as comfortable with. Because many educators may not feel very comfortable with the changes they may still follow their traditional format of teaching and information delivery. That causes gaps between what is needed by students and what is offered by instructors. Instructional designers are asked to bridge the gap by developing more appropriate instructions for the success of both students and instructors.

With this paper the presenter will reflect on her experience of supporting instructors with instructional design projects at a pharmacy college. The projects involved a variety of pharmacy specific subjects and requirements, as well as learners of a pharmacy school where it is common that lectures are delivered to students in a large classroom with rows of seats in a big lecture hall.

The projects involved redesigning course modules and activities, creating multimedia learning objects, and implementing innovative and appropriate technologies for distance and blended teaching. As a result of these projects the awareness of learning sciences was raised within the college community. They helped instructors and students to improve teaching and learning practices. Additionally these projects provided instructors with opportunities to reflect on their teaching process which will improve their future teaching. Through the design projects the presenter and her team summarized that certain skills are necessary for a successful designer. These skills include marketing, communication, collaboration, and project management. The presenter also wants to emphasize that analysis and evaluation are two very important stages in instructional design process but often neglected by the instructors. This presentation will detail the techniques of instruction delivery utilized and lessons learned for use of those methods. In addition, the presenter will specify what learning achievements instructors reported after the projects.

Through this presentation the author aims to achieve the following objectives.

- Provide background information of the projects
- Introduce instructional design projects conducted
- Reflect on the projects including both project management and instructional design aspects
- Summarize the lessons learned
- Plan for the future