I’m Not Your Mother Duck
- The Downside Of Educational Technology -

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Like baby ducks imprinted to follow their mama, students who are spoon-fed knowledge in teacher-centric learning environments are trapped in limited repertoires. They may perform a limited number of academic behaviors, but their capacity for independent and inter-dependent thinking is seriously diminished.

The pervasive emphasis on using educational technology for DELIVERING information imprints students as passive learners (isn’t television bad enough?). Where and how do we teach students to be independent learners who can find, assimilate, and apply information on their own? Where and how do they learn to create new information and insights?

Four years ago, we began testing an asynchronous Internet software collaboration system, FORUM (www.foruminc.com). This presentation demonstrates some of our uses of FORUM for individual and group work that goes beyond “imprinting the ducklings.” Illustrated are examples of how to stimulate insight, creativity, and ability to organize and apply information.