Title: Facilitating Knowledge Construction in Distance Learning Environment

Abstract: Although a balanced combination of many factors is needed to design a successful online course, one of the key elements in online course structure is providing learners with opportunities to co-construct knowledge as collective agreement (Greenhow, Robelia & Hughes, 2009). While various technologies exist to facilitate that process, there is little guidance on how each tool should be applied to support knowledge creation. This presentation will share best practices and challenges of a teacher education course that utilizes web 2.0 technologies embedded in many course management systems to allow for scaffolded process of knowledge construction. The presenter will outline the role of knowledge creation in ensuring positive learning outcomes in DL environment and compare key characteristics of several social computing tools used in the course (blogs, wikis, and discussion forums). Finally, the guidelines for utilizing these technologies in knowledge-construction process will be provided.


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