



Overview:

There are four main benefits to students when instructors utilize online tools in their classes.

Student Paced Instruction:

Students who have the motivation and drive have easy access to course materials. In a face-to-face classroom, the instructors are often speaking much more rapidly than the student can take notes, meaning that the student is only capturing a portion of the instruction during each class period. When notes and other resources are delivered electronically, a student can slow down or speed up the pace of instruction to meet his or her own learning needs. Students also have the ability to rewind, review, and repeat instructions when it is delivered in an online format.

Reduced Anxiety:

When students can control the time and place of their online testing, and when students can budget study hours and project work around their other life demands, the amount of extra stress related to a semi-completion and tests can be minimized. The stress reduction assumes that the student is taking appropriate efforts to study and prepare in the course; stress levels for procrastinators can actually become higher in online environments.

Greater Access to Resources:

Students have greater access to resources relating to their studies. Online course sites allow students to directly link to videos, articles, professional organizations, and other resources which are beneficial in their studies. Students also can be encouraged to explore additional online resources which may be useful as they continue their studies and explore their field of study. One of the great advantages of using online tools is the ability to help students develop their critical thinking and research skills, so that in the larger picture, students are able to identify proper channels and credible sources within their field of study.

Better Peer-to-Peer Communication:

In a face-to-face classroom environment, students who are extroverted drive the communications in the learning activities to the exclusion of students who are introverted. In the online environment, students from all backgrounds have the ability to read, reflect upon, and respond to the questions posed by the instructor. Additionally, in peer-to-peer communication, the online environment encourages students to research information before sharing it with others. Rather than speaking off the cuff, students would be expected to check their facts, and this should lead to better overall peer-to-peer communications with accurate information and well-formed opinions.