

Blended Models: Face-to-Face & Distance Learning Methods for Training

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(Parts of this presentation are based on the work of Dr. Curtis Bonk at Indiana State University)

Blended Learning

- What is blended learning?
- What is being blended?
- How much to blend?
- Why blend?
- How to blend?



Hybrid vs. Blended

- "Hybrid is the interbreeding of two different species of animals or plants to create a new species" (i.e. a mongrel)
- "Blended focuses on the mingling together in ways that lead to a well-balanced combination" (i.e. a margarita)



(Osguthorpe & Graham, 2003, Blended Learning Environment: Definitions and Directions)

Blended Learning Definitions

- Three most commonly cited definitions include:
 - BL = combining instructional modalities (e.g. self-paced and streaming video)
 - BL = combining instructional methods
 - BL = combining on-line and F2F instruction



Our Operational Definition

- Blended Learning = systems that combine face-to-face instruction with computer-mediated communication
 - More interactive than just online technologies
 - Emphasizes the central role of computer-based technologies
 - Definition is consistent with the historical emergence of the concept of BL



Why Blend?

1. Improved Pedagogy (or Androgogy)
 - Interactive vs. Transmission environments
 - Authenticity integration into work
2. Increased Access/Flexibility
 - Reduces seat time
3. Increased Cost Effectiveness
 - Corporate ROI (IBM 47:1, Avaya, Microsoft)
 - Higher Ed: PEW, NSF

	Computer-mediated environment (Asynchronous text-based discussion)	F2F environment (In-class discussion)
Strengths	<p><i>Flexibility:</i> Students can contribute to the discussion at the time and place that is most convenient to them.</p> <p><i>Participation:</i> 100% students can participate because time and place constraints are removed.</p> <p><i>Depth of Reflection:</i> Learners have time to more carefully consider and provide evidence for their claims and provide deeper more thoughtful reflections. (Mikulecky, 1998; Benbunan-Fich & Hiltz, 1999)</p>	<p><i>Human Connection:</i> it is easier to bond and develop a social presence in a F2F environment. This makes it easier to develop trust etc.</p> <p><i>Spontaneity:</i> Allows for the generation of rapid chains of associated ideas and serendipitous discoveries (Mikulecky, 1998).</p>
Weaknesses	<p><i>Spontaneity:</i> Doesn't encourage the generation of rapid chains of associated ideas and serendipitous discoveries (Mikulecky, 1998)</p> <p><i>Procrastination:</i> There may be a tendency towards procrastination (Benbunan-Fich & Hiltz, 1999)</p> <p><i>Human Connection:</i> The medium is considered to be impersonal by many (Benbunan-Fich & Hiltz, 1999) –this may cause a lower satisfaction level with the process (Haytko, 2001).</p>	<p><i>Participation:</i> Can't always have everyone participate, especially if there are dominating personalities.</p> <p><i>Flexibility:</i> Limited time, which means that you may not be able to reach the discussion depth that you would like.</p>

Blended Learning Advantages

1. Increased Learning (better papers, higher scores, etc.)
2. More effective pedagogy and interaction
3. Course access at one's convenience and flexible completion
4. Reduction in physical meeting time, space needs, travel, etc.
5. Increased opportunities for human interaction & communication
6. Introverts participate more

Potential Benefits w Blended Learning

- Materials are available all the time
- Materials are more learner-centered than lecture
- Online tools can be made available such as: whiteboards, discussions, and chat rooms
- Links to other material can be provided
- Information can be presented in various media formats
- Multiple adult learning styles can be accommodated
- Learners may find it easier to keep up in a blended training as opposed to a strictly on-line one
- On-going virtual communities of practice can be established that support continued adult learning
- It may be easier for learners to work on group projects when they are face-to-face while still enjoying the benefits of electronic communication and collaboration

Blended Learning Disadvantages

1. Procrastination (trouble managing time and requirements)
2. Problems with technology
3. Can be overwhelming or too novel
4. Poor integration or planning
5. Resistance to change
6. Good ideas but lack of time, money, & support

Potential Problems w Blended Learning

- Need to learn how to adapt certain material for on-line use
- Need to learn how to teach and facilitate the on-line learning experience
- Learners may lack necessary Web skills and/or they may not be familiar with using a Learning Management System (LMS)
- Learners generally need to be more structured with their time while away from the face-to-face environment
- Learners may need additional instruction in evaluating on-line resources and materials not provided by the facilitator
- Learners and facilitators may need to spend more time participating in asynchronous discussions on-line

Models of Blending

- Activity Level
 - (e.g. start F2F and complete on-line)
- Course Level
 - (e.g. alternate F2F and on-line activities)
- Program Level
 - (e.g. proscriptive blends)
- Institutional Level
 - (e.g. participants choose between technology-enhanced, blended, or on-line)

Forms of Blended Learning for Authentic Tasks

- Real World – email, discussion, chat
- Ill-structured problem solving – meet F2F, online supports
- Different perspectives – discussion, email, expert chats
- Collaboration – email, discussion boards, blogs, collab tools, F2F
- Reflection – discussion boards, blogs

Where is Blended Learning Beneficial?

- Large Classes (aka workshops, trainings, etc.)
- Classes with certification
- Classes with need for standardization
- Supplementary classes
- New requirements for a profession
- Massive and widespread audience

Research on Blended Learning

For more information on the blended learning research visit:

<http://www.publicationshare.com/>



Free Downloadable Reports from CourseShare:

Handbook of Blended Learning
(sample Chapters are below - the book is due out December 16, 2005 which is Dr. Book's birthday)

Questions/Comments


