

Introduction to Distance Education

MEDT 7472
Frances Bishop
Chapter 1 Scenario

Dr. Huett

The information presented in chapter 1 provides the reader with a synopsis of the history and evolution of online learning from the innovators themselves. My concept map was created based on my developing understanding of what are the essential fundamentals necessary for online learning to be meaningful to both students and instructors. While at the same time addressing the needs, goals and expectations of colleges and universities.

The information presented in my concept map from chapter 1 can be effectively delivered to students in two ways either by creating a weebly or a blog. Last semester, I learned about how to create a weebly and a blog. I enjoyed using both web-based applications because they offer the user with an opportunity to share information and provide an opportunity to interact social with classmates in a non-threatening manner.

In addition, both web-based applications address authors Rena Palloff and Keith Pratt's main objective and goal, which is to build a community of learners who are actively engaged in developing and sharing new knowledge through social networking.

Weebly and blogs build on theme of social networking by creating the building blocks that are necessary for online learning. 1. Allowing students to create their own personal forum for introducing themselves and sharing information about themselves. 2. Professors and instructors can either use a

weebly or a blog to structure the class by providing students with information about the content, goals, expectations and the guidelines that will be used to develop new knowledge and learning. 3. Using a weebly or blog provides an opportunity to bridge the technology gap that may exist among diverse learners within a class. Setting up a weebly or blog does not require advance technology skills and both are easy to maintain. 4. A weebly or blog can be used by students or professors to promote communication by posting open-ended questions, asking a survey question, starting a threaded discussion on topic, posting a respond to question, expressing an opinion among many others situation. By promoting an open-line of communication this is critical for building social relationships over long distances by providing students a variety of opportunities offer feedback to fellow classmates that is non-threatening in a safe environment. 5. Engaging in open communication sets the stage for critical thinking, problem-solving and informed decision making which are essential for reflective understanding and thinking. 6. A weebly or blog allows students to share knowledge and information with others to actively engage in constructing new knowledge gain from social relationships.

In conclusion, the information, which I have provided above regarding the concept map for chapter 1 scenario, can be best achieved through the use of a weebly or a blog. I believe by using a weebly or blog provides an opportunity to share the information in my concept map which promotes an open-line communication, provides the student an opportunity to receive feedback from classmates, allows for sharing and constructing new knowledge.

Most importantly, a weebly or blog allows for each individual to grow into an active and informed participant within a community of learners through social networking and interaction.