

Activity 1: “I didn’t know what I didn’t know.”

Consider the following topics related to your practice:

- Open education in schools
- MOOCs
- Distance education
- Open learning
- E-learning

Reflect and write down your thoughts about the ways that any two or more of these themes can be related and relevant to your practice. What makes the concepts related, what separates them? How might your concept of open education be informed by considering these themes and integrating related bodies of knowledge with current practices?

My experience is that I took classes face-to-face in a traditional classroom or lecture hall; I have taught most of my classes in a traditional classroom. The exceptions are when I taught five classes distance education.

The first experience was about ten years ago. It was less than fulfilling to me and was an online College Algebra course. The students read material on the computer, the text book, worked problems from the book on paper that were emailed to me, and took two proctored paper pencil exams. I graded the homework and returned it; I answered questions via email; I graded exams and recorded them. I did not feel this was teaching. Many students didn’t succeed. After two semesters of this, due to various other duties I was assigned, I stopped teaching online.

Eighteen months ago I was asked to teach a different type of distance education class an IDL class. Two or more classrooms are linked via an IDL network that allows connections to see and hear participants in all rooms using microphones, cameras and TVs.

During three classes I was asked to teach from my regional site to our “main campus” a course that, due to a position vacancy, the main campus had no teacher to teach that semester. I taught fairly traditionally putting notes on a projected paper instead of on the white board while lecturing and students unmuting the microphone to ask questions. A proctor was available in the classroom to watch the students take three hour exams and the two hour final exam. Homework and exams were scanned to me, graded them, and returned them to the students via email. This experience was rewarding for me and successful for the students.

This fall I am planning to teach a class connecting my traditional class to a single student at main campus with zoom because the IDL room is busy at the time. This will involve some new technology interaction.

My participation in e-learning is noting reputable websites to watch videos on math to supplement material in lectured on in class. Khanacademy.org and mathtv.com have been two of my go to sites. Through exploration during this course I have found three other sites that I will recommend to my students in College Algebra this week when classes start. I will post the five web links in Moodle for them.

In the future, as we may be moving from a book rental system to where the students may be required to purchase courseware for some classes, I see more e-learning occurring and being incorporated into my practice. I hope we can use free or low cost OERs to keep education fanatically accessible to my students.

This is my first MOOC and it has been a great experience. I hope to participate in other MOOCs from futurelearn.com to improve and expand my teaching practices; I learned of this site through a post today.