

1. A leading definition of distance education is that offered by Simonson (see p. 31 of the Simonson et al. text). How does this definition compare with your own, personal definition of the field—and the popular (layman's) definition or understanding of the field?

The definition of distance education seen on page 31 is very similar to the definition I have about it. Students and teacher do not share the same physical space. They are at different places and communicate to each other with the use of technology. Accepting Distance Education as an effective way of learning has taken several years. Institutions have expended considerable effort to demonstrate the quality of their distance education programs, being accreditation one of the most important activities (Simmons, 2019, p.18).

2. Discuss two items (facts, observations, etc.) presented by Simonson that you found especially interesting (or surprising, baffling, infuriating, etc.).

- The idea of using quadrants to represent the different approaches of education has called my attention. Coldeway's Quadrants consider two variables, time and place. The combination of both results in four different approaches of learning. The difference between traditional and distance education is clearly explained. Traditional education takes place at the same time and the same place and distance education takes place at different times and different places. (Simmons, 2019, p. 9)
- Reading about the history of distance education was very interesting. Its beginning was in 1833 when a Swedish newspaper advertised the opportunity to study composition via correspondence (Simmons, 2019, p.36). This method of learning was also implemented in France during World War II to help with the education of children,

3. Your reaction after reading the emergency-remote-teaching and online learning article.

This article took me back to mid-March 2019 when all educators were asked to change from traditional teaching to remote live instruction. The article explains the concept of Emergency Remote Teaching (ERT), and its difference from distance education. ERT is a temporary shift of instructional delivery to an alternate delivery mode due to crisis circumstances (Hodges, 2020). This alternate delivery mode could be the use of online courses but as a temporary solution. ERT should be more flexible than regular online classes. As an example, the article mentions that few institutions made the decision to change the letter grade scale to a pass/fail scale.