

Class Sessions 9: Distance Teaching

The functions of distance educators and face-to-face educators are similar. The differences are in the way teachers in distance learning approach some of the functions. For example, motivating students, in an environment where teachers may not see or hear student, is more challenged than in face-to face instruction. This was one of the biggest challenged all teachers faced during the pandemic, the level of interaction in the online setting was reduced to the minimum compared to the interaction we had during face-to face. Discussion boards and group assignments are two strategies educators can use to promote students' interaction in an online setting.

Assignments in distance learning should be varied, assigned on regular basis, graded on time, and should be an appropriate amount of work. Teachers should take in consideration that more work does not mean better quality of education. The amount of work should be enough that all students can handle it. An excess of work, sometimes lead students to decide not to continue working. Students are always expecting teachers to be fair, and this include fair with the amount of work.

Class size is one of the challenges of distance learning that we also have in face-to-face instruction. It not only increases the chances of having discipline problems, but it also makes class discussions and group work more difficult for teachers. I would like to know, how teachers in distance learning handle working with large class sizes.