

Title of Session: Faculty Resistance to Online Learning

Moderator: Roger Goodson

Title of File: 20081030frol

Date: October 30, 2008

Room: Faculty Resistance to Online Learning Group

BJB2: Welcome to this month's FROL, everyone!

BJB2: I see lots of people from the OTL discussion, but also a few new faces...Roger, would you like to re-do intros?

RogerMG: Hello all. I am a Prof. at a small university in Nor Cal. I have been teaching online for about eight years. Mostly blended classes . . .how about y'all?

BJB2: everyone please tell Roger where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

CeAnnGst4: I've taken online classes and taught 1.

GeorgeK: I teach management at Lewis University in Illinois- my classes are blended ones

BJB2 . o O (and what interests you about FROL)

JdD: Jd...Phoenix High School Math Educator

CeAnnGst4: Iowa; teach technology course 7-12; would like to teach online

BlancaH: I am Blanca Hernandez, I am a student teacher in Katy, Texas. I am currently teaching 2nd grade. I graduate in December

CandiS: Candi, student teaching at Williams Elementary in Katy, TX, currently attending University of Houston, graduating in Dec.

AlanH: Hey Roger, I am a student teacher in the Houston area teaching in 4th grade right now

MichellePC: Hi Roger! I am a student teacher in Fort Bend ISD, and hope to teach 2nd-4th grade

StephenDa: I am a Student Teacher in Houston, TX teaching 6th grade

MelissaJJ: My name is Melissa Johnson and I am from Houston, TX. I student teach at Post and will graduate in December!

VictoriaA: I'm in Houston, TX and I'm student teaching with a 6th grade English class.

AimeeKn: I am a student teacher in Alief ISD and will receive my certification for EC-4

EloisaM: I am located in Houston. I hope to teach Bilingual EC-4. I go to the Univ. of Houston and am a student teacher. I will be graduating in Dec.

EloisaM: I am currently student teaching Pre-K students.

RogerMG: One of the things this discussion forum is about it looking at how to assist teachers and learning institutions (schools) in the use of online learning tools. Again, as in the last forum during the last hour, I have something for you to look at on the forum homepage, another Featured Item, Files, titled:

RogerMG: OK. Take a look at the Featured Items on this forum's homepage, under files and find the file:• TappedIn FacResistOnlineLearningIssuesStrats.pdf Take a look at the table and then return here please.

GeorgeK: done

JdD: Pretty long list of key issues...

BJB2:

http://tappedin.org/tappedin/do/FileAction?ROOM_ID=11001&FILE_ID=50056&state=doDownloadFile

AimeeKn: I have looked over the table

RogerMG: I find this table useful in terms of thinking about how to deal with teachers' or institutions resistance to online learning . . .having tried doing 'one shot' or even 'several shot' workshops for teachers on OL, I find that results range from limited, to none. The table indicates that a more holistic approach to change is needed.

MichellePC: I am finished!

BlancaH: I am finished!

EloisaM: I am finished as well.

VictoriaA: I can see this table being very useful when creating lessons for students and teachers alike.

JdD: I'd agree with that statement Roger, as I've done the 'one shot' workshops myself...

StephenDa: I've sat in on some 'oneshots' before and I can see how some teachers might

not get a lot of it if they get all that information all at once

MelissaJJ: very true

CandiS: true

EloisaM: Yes, that's true.

JdD: I like the statement: “ Much has been discovered in the last 5 decades about how humans learn. Students learn best when they are actively engaged in meaningful activities; when they collaborate with peers, exchange ideas, and provide and receive peer feedback; when they reflect critically on what they are doing; when they work on real-world, challenging, authentic activities; when their work is constantly evaluated; and when they are intrinsically motivated (Branford, Brown, & Cocking, 1999.) But it is easily forgotten that teachers/adults learn best in the same ways.” (Putnam & Borko, 2000.)

JdD: Design programs based on what we know about how ICT can support learning.

JdD: Authentic engagement within teacher’s contexts

JdD: Situate programs in teachers’ context so that activities are authentic. . .(effective development is situated in teachers’ everyday practice, and distributed across communities, tools and contexts . . .it provides authentic opportunities for teachers to thin like experts in making instructional decisions, structuring learning activities and employing”

BlancaH: I agree!

JdD: Just the first part...

GeorgeK: What if their everyday practice or context is so shopworn that it really needs changing?

MichellePC: I agree with that statement in the very beginning of the file. I think students DO learn best when they are actively engaged, able to critically do and reflect

RogerMG: Yes . . .unfortunately, our schools and colleges often sponsor one-shot 'change' workshops, when what is really required is a well-thought through program for change. Some indicate that when change efforts (reform efforts) are undertaken by schools that they rarely include technology.

AlanH: I agree students do learn better when they are actively engaged and feel as if they are part of the discussion

BlancaH: yes, active engagement is very important during class discussion

StephenDa: I was recently at a teacher in-service day and for the whole day they only went over two tech. programs that they can use in their classes and gave them time to work with them. It was not a lot of information all at once

JdD: Technology should be a top priority when it comes to reform efforts...in terms of curriculum, I would think...

VictoriaA: I agree with Roger, few classes offer students the opportunity of skill mastery. The one- shot approach is very overdone.

AlanH: I agree that technology is very important because it is all around us, but we also have to focus on students ability to still spell without spell check

RogerMG: It's interesting that when these sorts of workshops are given Stephen, that what we advocate that teachers do to help students learn . . .the workshop leaders tend to ignore. Actually, what works with students also works with teachers (all of the things listed in the left hand column of the table.)

MichellePC: The district that I am currently at has adapted a new math program. This math program is called Envision Math and it incorporates technology into all of their lessons, giving students a chance to see how these two things can be intertwined little by little

VictoriaA: Stephen-That's rare that a teacher-in service will allow you to work with the information that is being presented.

MelissaJJ: that's great I wish they had that at my school

BlancaH: wow that sounds interesting!

StephenDa: That is true at times Roger

AlanH: yeah, I love that new Envision Math stuff, and my Kindergartners loved it too

CandiS: What kind of things does Envision Math do?

JdD: Michelle, I've seen that program at the NCTM conference...they were a highlighted vendor!

EloisaM: What is envision math? Is it a website?

StephenDa: It was different then what I had thought it would be like. It was actually kind of laid back and gave the teachers opportunities to explore and mess around with the programs on their own

RogerMG: What was the objective Stephen?

AimeeKn: I am also in a school that is using Envision Math - but unfortunately the teachers have not been offered training on the program

MichellePC: Envision Math is just a new curriculum, and they try to have students think outside of the box when it comes to math. there are math games that each student gets to take home on a cd, and the textbook is online as well, giving students and parents a chance to access it at home

BlancaH: what grades have access to it?

EloisaM: Wow, that's really awesome!

MichellePC: they have little things that go with the lessons that you can teach, giving students a chance to be interested in something other than the overhead

VictoriaA: The dreaded overhead

CandiS: Yeah, computer games are always a good way to engage kids

MichellePC: I think that all elementary grades have access to it..not too sure about ms and hs

AlanH: One thing I like about the Envision Math set is that it goes step by step with students when they are on it

MichellePC: they offer so many different types of manipulatives you can use along with the lessons, too! very, very helpful

StephenDa: They were teaching teachers how to incorporate Photo Story 3 and Smart Board programs into their lesson. Stuff we might already know about but some of these teachers had no idea that these programs existed

RogerMG: <--- I go on record as absolutely hating overhead projectors.

StephenDa: Seconded on the projectors

BlancaH: thanks Michelle!

MelissaJJ: me too!

MelissaJJ: old school

CandiS: They have their uses

EloisaM: Same here Roger.

GeorgeK: They hold doors open nicely

StephenDa: heh

VictoriaA: George- lol\

EloisaM: ha ha ha

RogerMG: There is that big bright light in the front of the room. . .all I can think of is 'Go Into the Light',

MelissaJJ: ha

GeorgeK: Close Encounters

VictoriaA: or the bugs on 'bugs life'

GeorgeK: Top hat and cane

CandiS: what do you prefer over overheads?

GeorgeK: sock puppets...oops, I am getting too silly

RogerMG: It would be ok if teachers would turn the damn things off when they have no more transparencs, but many tend to leave them on. You're right George, Close Encounters.

GeorgeK: Focus is the issue, if the overhead is the focus, the student is not.

MichellePC: that's true George..

BlancaH: why do think that George?

GeorgeK: If we use technology, the student still needs to be the focal point

MichellePC: less overhead work, more student interaction

RogerMG: My other complaint is with ppts if anyone's interested.

CandiS: But you're using the overhead to gain the students' focus

MelissaJJ: yes do tell

JdD: In our high school we've integrated Smart Technologies' Smart Board

GeorgeK: No the student is the focus.

MelissaJJ: the overhead is not my favorite but I use it at times but not all the time

MelissaJJ: it gives me a headache

VictoriaA: I must agree with you again Roger. ppt's can be interesting but I guess we are prepping kids for corporate America.

BlancaH: I do not have any problems with overheads, they are very useful sometimes.

AlanH: I disagree that if you use an overhead, you are not being student focused because I have done some activities with the over head that has engaged the whole class

RogerMG: Current cognitive research in media informs us that people cannot read and listen at the same time. So, some people load up their ppts with reading material instead of just a few bulleted items. So, I'm reading and ignoring what they're saying.

GeorgeK: Astrophysicists tell us that, at once, the universe has no center, but we are all at its center. So it is in the classroom, the student must be at the center.

EloisaM: Interesting.

CandiS: just because you're using an overhead, doesn't mean that you're not focusing on the students

GeorgeK: How can we use the computer, the software, etc to put the student at the center? Any ideas?

StephenDa: I think we have all seen PPTs like that and can understand what you are saying

BlancaH: yes Eloisa that is interesting!

MelissaJJ: true because I do the same thing when people do these presentations..i just read them

MichellePC: I think that..as long as its student centered, student focused..then anything you use should be okay

VictoriaA: bullets in the powerpoint can be helpful, but whole pages of information is a bit much.

BlancaH: I agree!

MichellePC: of course, the more different items you bring in, the more excited students become, which increases the involvement

RogerMG: Well, it's enough to turn people off to technology isn't it!

MelissaJJ: yes

EloisaM: I always just use bulleted information and then expand on it as I'm teaching the lesson.

StephenDa: true

BlancaH: very true

RogerMG: Way to go Eloise!

GeorgeK: I liked that "involvement" comment.

CandiS: "Involvement" largely depends on the kids you're teaching

MelissaJJ: exactly

CandiS: different kids will respond better to different methods and tools

GeorgeK: Everything depends on the kids you are teaching.

StephenDa: Some kids jump to be involved if it means being able to use stuff like smartboards and the like... literally in some cases

RogerMG: You can only start with where the audience is . . .in a way, we're all performers as well as teachers, right?

AlanH: True Candi, my afternoon class can not handle some of the fun things that the morning class does because of their behavior actions when we have tried them

BlancaH: It is true every student is different

VictoriaA: that's true George

CandiS: maybe you'll have some that are really engaged by whatever you have to put on the overhead, or the ppt

MelissaJJ: My morning class is always involved..my afternoon..not so much

CandiS: maybe they are sleepy by then haha

CandiS: my kids have nap time

MelissaJJ: maybe Candi ha

VictoriaA: same here Melissa, that afternoon crowd is bouncing off the walls

EloisaM: I think the behavior is in the teaching.

CandiS: what do you mean Eloisa?

EloisaM: We need to set expectations of what it is we want them to learn and do. That way they will know what is expected of them.

BlancaH: I have to agree with Eloisa

AimeeKn: I have been in a situation in a district where the faculty is resisting online learning and technology in the classroom consists only of overheads, computer math games, videos, and occasionally a document camera - will we be addressing this?

VictoriaA: At the beginning of the day, the material is fresh to both you and the students, so maybe you are putting more into at the start. By the end of the school day both teachers and students are worn out, so maybe that why they are not as engaged

CandiS: what happened Aimee?

MelissaJJ: that could be it

VictoriaA: Aimee- do you utilize technology in your classroom?

AimeeKn: I am concerned with what you do in that type of situation - I am in a student teaching position and am basically told that first graders can't handle technology

CandiS: I think as a student teacher there's not much you can do

CandiS: it's not your classroom):

AlanH: You know, technology is great but today I had an hour discussion with my class over an educational newspaper that we are using to learn about Indians. No computers, no overheads, no nothing, just a paper, some reading and talking

AimeeKn: no, it is not available - I cannot drown the students in videos and powerpoints

EloisaM: Yes they can. They just need to be taught how. My five year old loves it!

StephenDa: Unfortunately that's true at times

MelissaJJ: my kinder students last semester did their own powerpoints...

VictoriaA: when it's your time to teach, Aimee have you tried to incorporate tech?

AimeeKn: it is not my classroom I am a student teacher

RogerMG: OH come on . . .first grade parents buy tech. toys for their kids for Christmas.

AimeeKn: I agree that the students can do it

MelissaJJ: a lot of them have a DS ha

AimeeKn: but the teachers do not believe that they will learn anything

CandiS: I think that depends on where you're living Roger

BlancaH: yes, they are perfectly capable.

StephenDa: It's hard to bring in tech. if your teacher is resistant to the idea

EloisaM: Teachers need to have higher expectations and a lot of patience.

MelissaJJ: I agree

BlancaH: yes!

AimeeKn: it seems that the entire school is

MelissaJJ: we learn so much about it in our classes and we hardly see it being put to use..it's sad

RogerMG: Aimee . . .perhaps the teachers need to understand 'learning' better :-)

AlanH: Kids know a bunch about technology, but sometimes teachers are afraid to use it because THEY do not understand it

VictoriaA: But when it's your 4 weeks of teaching, introduce it

CandiS: well it's hard to teach with something you can't understand, so that's true Alan

MichellePC: since it's not your school, and your classroom, the only thing that you can possibly do is to learn what NOT to do...and maybe try to incorporate a little bit of technology into your lessons to see how the students would respond to that idea?

AimeeKn: another issue has been that certain grades have adopted envision math but the teachers have not been trained

AimeeKn: they have no idea how to use all of the components

VictoriaA: well stated Michelle

MichellePC: I think sometimes teachers get the idea that incorporating technology into the lessons will take too much work, which is why they are resistant to the idea, too

RogerMG: Candi, I agree. It does depend on the community, whether they have access to tech. or not.

BlancaH: that is true and sometimes they do not have time for it.

CandiS: yeah, so if you put a bunch of first graders who aren't as typically tech savvy as the average kid, they're going to be lost

AimeeKn: I am in an area where the students do not have access to much technology at home

CandiS: but you're right, most kids are really good with technology these days

RogerMG: Michelle . . .I've heard that from a lot of teachers . . .but, is it a reason, or a rationalization.

AimeeKn: but to me that is a greater reason to use it in the classroom

JeffC: create a room here for them Candi... include links for them to click on... they'll get it.

EloisaM: I agree Aimee.

MichellePC: I think that it's a reason that they put across

StephenDa: I agree but some teachers just don't see it that way

AimeeKn: if they do not get the experience and chance to learn from it at home then they need to get it at school

StephenDa: all they see is more work

CandiS: Michelle, I think teachers say that because they have a misconception on what technology is

MichellePC: I agree!

EloisaM: True Candi

CandiS: they just associate the word with something confusing and hard to use

RogerMG: In the 21st century, where these kids are going to be spending their lives, technology is not only going to be omnipresent . . .it will be a way of life which means how successful they will become . . .or the converse.

AlanH: It all starts with the teacher, if they don't know how to do it, then they will not use it

BlancaH: I agree Candi

AlanH: which I can understand that

VictoriaA: I've noticed that it depends on the teacher's attitude toward learning. i am currently working as a student teacher with a teacher that lacks the skills to incorporate technology. All semester I've showed her how to create ppt (sorry Roger), use the elmo, and other tech tools.

RogerMG: That's right Alan.

MichellePC: That's true, Alan. If the teachers don't see a use for it, or push for it in the classroom, students will never get that opportunity to see what resources they can use to better equip them for the future

EloisaM: Same here Victoria

EloisaM: I do technology lessons with my pre-k students and they love it. My teacher says it's great but she would not teach the same way as me because she does not want to mess with it and doesn't really know how.

RogerMG: These technologies we see now are still basically in their infancy . . .imagine what will happen when Internet three arrives.

VictoriaA: Even though my teacher has been teaching for 10 + years, she doesn't want to 'stand and deliver' everyday. She wants to grow just like the students are growing.

AlanH: A lot of the teachers in my school have come to me to help them out with their tech stuff because they do not know what they are trying to get and have no clue what to do

BlancaH: that is sad Alan!

CandiS: You're really lucky Victoria

StephenDa: I like that some teachers are trying to grow and use more tech. but there are

more still that don't

RogerMG: Alan, That's good . Perhaps the school needs to formalize a tech. mentoring system.

CandiS: At least your teachers are open to the idea of incorporating technology... unlike Aimee's

MelissaJJ: Yes that would definitely help!

BlancaH: but is good you are there Alan!

EloisaM: A tech mentoring system sounds like a wonderful idea!

AimeeKn: yes

StephenDa: Sounds nice

AimeeKn: I pulled out a digital camera at recess today and it was almost chaos because they never get to use anything like that (we were doing a shape hunt)

AlanH: as young teachers enter the schools, they should help out with teaching tech stuff to the "older" teachers instead of them relying on the schools tech teacher

VictoriaA: what does that say about a teacher who is not open to growing in the field of education?

CandiS: that they are either scared to admit that they don't know everything

CandiS: or that they figure that the way they are doing it is just fine

MichellePC: that they just don't see a reason to change

VictoriaA: isn't there a saying, like you stop learning when you die...or something to that effect.

RogerMG: Aimee . . .have any of you ever had kids all get a chance to use digital cameras and to take pictures they can write a story about, either online or in class?

AlanH: true Victoria, as teachers, we will never stop learning, and to be honest, all of this technology stuff did not just appear over night, so teachers need to learn the systems and continue to grow as educators

AimeeKn: no, I have not - I wish I had though

BlancaH: Certainly true, learning is an endless process!

AimeeKn: I only have one personal digital camera and that is what we were using today as the school has little available

EloisaM: That sounds like an awesome lesson, Roger. Using digital cameras with students to tell a story.

CandiS: is it well funded otherwise?

VictoriaA: I agree with Alan's statement earlier, teachers more familiar with technology should assist those less familiar. I noticed that when I had to teach my supervisor teacher, I learned new things as well.

AimeeKn: the school? yes, I believe so

AlanH: I'm planning a lesson with my 4th graders where they will take a picture of something and then write a story about it using that scene

CandiS: where does all the money go?

AimeeKn: I am not exactly sure Candi (they don't tell me that) :)

RogerMG: Candi, That's an excellent question!

CandiS: haha alright just wondering, because if they are getting funds they should be getting money for technology items

CandiS: maybe they have really nice chalkboards?

RogerMG: Actually, if it's a public school, it has to be available to the public where the money is being spent. It cannot be hidden.

CandiS smiles

AimeeKn: I would really like to know - I can tell you it is a title 1 school though

AimeeKn: nope, the chalkboards are pretty regular! haha

VictoriaA: Lol

AimeeKn: maybe I will ask and find out - that is now on my list of things to do

BlancaH: ha ha

MelissaJJ: we don't even have chalkboards anymore. it is all about those white erase boards ha

EloisaM: great idea

MichellePC: I think that title 1 schools try harder to see what works in the school, and how they can improve it

AimeeKn: we still have chalkboards

MichellePC: I know...because the school that I am at is a title 1 school, and they are always having meetings to see how they can better improve, and what can be done

EloisaM: We have Promethean Boards!!!

MelissaJJ: it all works the same

CandiS: what's that?

MelissaJJ: Yeah definitely will have to look up Promethean boards Eloisa..you mentioned that a lot in the last professional development

BlancaH: you are right Melissa!

EloisaM: It's a projector that's attached on the ceiling and teachers can create flipcharts. Students use special pens and wands to interact with the activities on the board. Google it!

RogerMG: The lion's share of most school budgets goes to salaries and benefits. What's left over get divvied up depending on a number of things ranging from necessary programs to whims.

MichellePC: wow...that sounds really fun

CandiS: WANDS wow

AimeeKn: hmm I'll have to look that up

StephenDa: It is great when the students can actually interact in the learning

CandiS: yeah, that's a very sad truth Roger

EloisaM: It is the best thing technology has to offer! In my opinion, that is.

AlanH: yeah my sister's school has those and she absolutely loves hers

RogerMG: OK. We're running of time fast. I would like to say that you are perhaps one of the best groups I've been privileged to work with in TI. Your questions are great, and

your input terrific! Thank you for participating here.

EloisaM: Thank you Roger.

AlanH: Thank you!

AimeeKn: Thank you

MelissaJJ: Thank you so much!

StephenDa: Thank You

BlancaH: Thank you!

MichellePC: Thanks, Roger!

JdD: Thanks

CandiS: Thanks Roger, bye everyone!

VictoriaA: thanks again Roger!

GeorgeK: Thank you all, and good night.

SusanR: Thanks Roger, some valuable issues raised

StephenDa: Bye and goodnight

BlancaH: Good night!

RogerMG: Good night and be good.