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Minds Online: Teaching Effectively With Technology



Synopsis

For the Internet generation, educational technology designed with the brain in mind offers a natural pathway to the pleasures and rewards of deep learning. Drawing on neuroscience and cognitive psychology, Michelle Miller shows how attention, memory, critical thinking, and analytical reasoning can be enhanced through technology-aided approaches.

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Customer Reviews

Although "online" is in the title, "minds" is the more important word. The book summarizes a wide variety of the latest results from education science, with beneficial advice for all forms of instruction. This book should be valuable to all professors and instructors in tertiary education, independent of whether they will ever use any technology more modern than a chalk board. The writing is free of dogma and provides references to the research results. I have read many articles, books and blog posts about higher education, with subjects ranging from finance to political correctness to educational technology. As a university employee entrusted with helping students learn, I cannot recall any that have been more valuable than this one, per page and time spent.

I've been preparing to teach on line (business stat) in the fall and bought six books to help. Step by step guides, etc., that claim to teach me. This book is light years ahead of the others. Solid references to the theory, organized effectively. Then functional practical suggestions of how to put that into action. Great stuff. If you only buy one guide, this is it.

Ms. Miller does a great job blending research in cognitive psychology with research in best practices for pedagogy to create a framework for all educators, but with an additional emphasis on illustrating practical strategies one can implement to optimize success for the "online learner."

I teach online and think, for example, that using videos to present information that then get discussed or applied face to face is an excellent way to teach. But while I share the author's opinion that online may be the only way for some people to get an education due to location or lack of money, I feel that she completely ignores some of the drawbacks of solely online teaching and testing, drawbacks that need to be acknowledged so that, one would hope, they could be addressed and eliminated. She mentions, for example, how useful it is to be able to let students take the same quiz over and over again until they get all the answers right, and that's something that one would have a hard time doing in a regular classroom. That's absolutely correct. But Miller has either been very lucky in the online quizzes or tests she's seen; or else, she has chosen to ignore the obvious, that questions graded electronically tend to simplify the content dramatically because understanding natural language is still a barrier for computerized instruction. With courses that have a right or wrong, nothing in between answer, say a course in electronics, that's not a problem. But with, for example, a history or government course, where there really are opposing and sound arguments over, for instance, the role of states rights in shaping the country past and present, it's currently all but impossible--or more precisely, I have not seen any examples that prove me wrong-- to create computerized assessments that can respond to nuanced answers. While she avoids the excessively--and in my opinion, simple-minded--laudatory tone of some online ed enthusiasts, think Arne Duncan, I don't think Miller gives an accurate picture of some of the drawbacks associated with a fully online approach to learning.

Dr. Miller's vast experience in online educational experience design is presented in this helpful presentation. The only way to improve it would have been to include online quizzes for each chapter ;)

Just received yesterday. It looks excellent from what I have read so far. It is the required text for faculty tech course. Looks like it will be a great resource.

This book is a must have for anyone involved in or considering online instruction. This book has

impeccable theoretical foundations but is still readable and comprehensible for nonscientists.

One of the most helpful, balanced books I have seen regarding online learning and the use of technology.

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