

Slowing Down Online Asynchronous Learning

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Core question to be answered

- How can we support relationship-building within online learning environments, with specific focus on characteristics of instruction delivery?

Methodology

- Iterative development process, beginning with high level scan of literature on interactive experiences in online education.
- Original focus was intended to be pace of learning (in favour of slowing down online learning), but literature was limited in the area, which recommended a change toward dialogic relationships.
- Unpacking the concept of 'dialogic relationships' into strategies to create relationships and feelings of connectedness moved the focus of the project toward human instructor presence in online education.
- Because the project was proposed as a position paper through the medium of film, topic focus on film itself emerged as a promising area of focus. Focussing on film itself was well supported by research literature. It also creates a rich opportunity for medium and message to converge and create layered meaning for this kind of artistic expression.
- Relevant literature was identified and concepts pulled by Dombrowski. These were used to inform a draft script, which was provided to the Media Services team at the University of New Brunswick.
- The draft script was read aloud by Carlee Calver (Media Services), in the presence of Dombrowski and Ty Giffin. Through discussion, the script was modified with significant creative contributions by Calver that merit co-authorship. The script was reviewed and finalised by Dombrowski and provided to Media Services for development.
- Media Services developed the film and provided drafts to Dombrowski for review. Minor revisions were made, prior to Dombrowski agreeing that the video project was complete.

Key Findings

- Presence of human face in online recorded instruction is recommended to establish parasocial experiences;
- Inclusion of more-human expression in video instruction is recommended to establish parasocial experiences;
- Recommend video instruction include limited amounts of 'seemingly off-topic' and 'imperfect' narration to promote intrasocial experiences.

Dissemination strategy

- UNB Website
- UNB Sharepoint
- Submitted to University Affairs for consideration, will consider other sector-specific outlets as/when required.

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