

Discussion 2 - Implementing Distance learning Discussion

What are the major points that this chapter (paper) bring into account (for conducting Online Needs Analysis instruction) that regular instructional design books (Brown and Green, 2011, for example) often miss discussing? In addition, what other points worthy of discussion that you can add to the paper?

<http://fcit.usf.edu/distance/chap10.htm>

My Answer:

Personally I feel from my reading of this chapter that much more attention is given to both the technology involved in a distance learning course as well as ensuring that all faculty involved (not just the instructors, but both assistants and technical support staff) are properly trained in using and troubleshooting the instructional materials developed for the course. In fact, I don't recall Brown and Green placing as much emphasis on the training of all faculty involved as Barron does. At most, I recall Brown and Green addressing how to prepare instructors for teaching course material, but not to this scope and scale.

Also, Brian Tallent pointed out something important: this author discusses learning styles, but in our courses here we've been taught that learning styles there's only two channels for processing information: auditory and visual. We're more concerned with applying the Modality Principle (avoiding cognitive overload by making good use of both senses, e.g. audio narration of text especially in the presence of complex visuals).