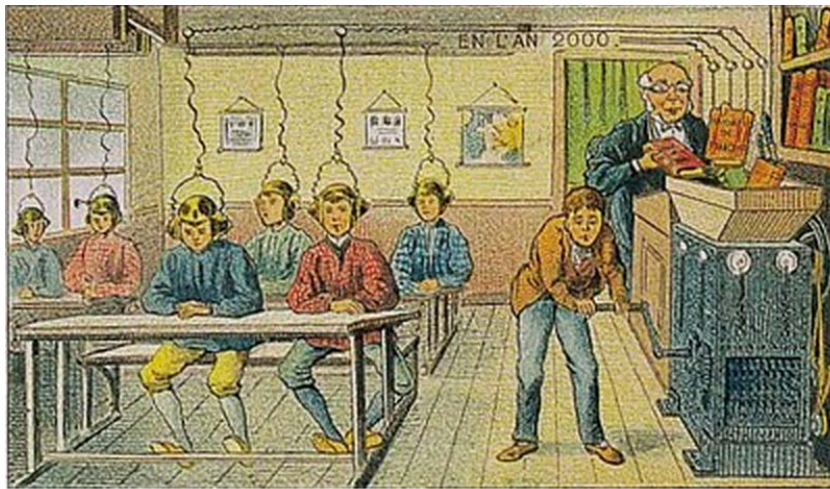


## The changing role of the instructor to support students online

Hello. Welcome to the e-Moderator course!

In this video I'll be presenting some ideas about the role of the e-moderator. But first let's try to establish the main differences when compared to traditional face to face teaching, and see why the e-moderator has a critical role in online learning contexts.



On campus, in traditional face to face settings, teaching is done most of the time by lecturing to a class of students. We can critically say that this is a mode of delivering content, of trying to **transfer** it into students heads, even though we all know that learning doesn't automatically happen this way.



Although there has been more emphasize on constructivist approaches for teaching and learning in higher education in the past years, like for example **active learning** strategies and problem based learning, most of what happens inside a traditional classroom is still teacher and not student centred.

We have to move from “sage on the stage” that is, a teacher centred approach, to “guide on the side”, where students benefit from a highly interactive environment with the instructor and peers. This idea clearly states the changing role of the instructor in educational settings.

We need to take into account the learning context,... that is, “on making learning happen within activity-rich, interaction-rich, and culturally rich social environments (...), that the intelligent use of technology is making possible, and where different paradigms apply” (Figueiredo & Afonso, 2006:4).

In this way, here at the Delft University of Technology we believe that an online course is much more than only content. This is an idea shared among several educational researchers that work on changing old ineffective educational practices that last for too many years. We need to add interaction to our courses, we need to add a human touch. ☺

For most academic learning goals human interaction is needed. When students are challenged to question ideas and to acquire deep understanding..; dialogue and conversation among students and between instructor and students is critical. This points to the critical role of the e-moderator in facilitating this dialogue in online courses. ☺

In fact, interactive, active and supportive are some of the principles of our pedagogical model for online learning, and by supportive we mean providing guidance and feedback, encouraging and motivating your students. ☺

In online education, the role of the teacher is to facilitate learning. You need to be flexible, to guide and support students, to activate and motivate them, to provide timely feedback regarding their performance so they can build confidence and advance on their learning.

Research tells us that instructor presence is really important, and that it influences students success or failure in an online course.

*“Where students feel the instructor is not present, both learner performance and completion rates decline.” as Tony Bates refers.*

Learners need to feel a sense of presence to avoid feeling isolated. The e-moderator is key for successful learning in online environments....

That's it for now. Thank you for your attention. And see you in the course.

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