

Utilize Multiple Media

Utilize Interactive Technologies

UDL CHECKPOINT 2.5: Illustrate through multiple media

— Including various medias and interactive technologies can help learners remain engaged throughout a lesson, which can help them understand and retain course information more successfully than with traditional instruction practices (e.g. readings and lectures).

What is it?

The digital age allows instructors to utilize various media and technology throughout their courses, and this isn't limited to remote learning, video lectures, or PowerPoints. Rather, various forms of media (such as illustrations, infographics, images, and other graphics) along with interactive media (including Padlet, survey programs, Quizlet, Kahoot, etc.) allow learners the opportunity to receive information in multiple and engaging ways.

Why do it?

Traditional teaching practices are oftentimes boring for learners. This can cause learners' attentions to drift, ultimately keeping them from fully receiving essential course information. However, utilizing interactive technologies helps learners receive information in more engaging ways, where the learners are active in their education as opposed to passively sitting in a seat and being lectured to. Using interactive technologies highlights the expression: "Learn by doing." Ultimately, these technologies create competition, fun, and excitement that can help learners better grasp the material so that they can succeed in the course.

How can I apply it?

Here are some ways that you can better utilize interactive technologies.

- **Don't rely on traditional forms of instruction only.** Reading texts, watching videos, and listening to lectures are all established ways of teaching/learning and should not be done away with, but incorporating newer technologies throughout a course can be beneficial to learners.
- **Allow learners to work in groups.** When learners work alone, they can often feel lost with material and may be less willing to ask for clarification than when they are working with peers. By establishing learning groups, learners can work collaboratively on assignments/assessments.
- **Use various media during instruction.** When presenting concepts, it is helpful to learners that instructors demonstrate a specific concept in multiple forms and media, including a photo, image, infographic, diagram, physical movement, etc. In so doing, the instructor is creating a clear link between the concept and the various representations, which can positively impact the learning experience.

Summary

Learning should be engaging for learners, regardless of the subject or level of education. While traditional education practices are still effective, solely relying on these practices can create barriers for learners, which can keep them from truly understanding the material and succeeding in their education. Because of this, it is important that instructors vary the methods of instruction and create interaction and active learning in their classrooms.