Emphasizes Time on Task

Description
Emphasizes time on task is the fifth of Chickering and Ehrmann’s Seven Principles of Good Practice. It is a set of time and research tested instructional strategies proposed in 1987.

This principle discusses students’ needs to be encouraged to spend the appropriate amount of time studying and practicing your course material. This is especially important in distance learning. Here, activities that are normally externally guided are self-initiated; a classroom discussion happens when the instructor prompts, whereas the online student must engage in the discussion on their own schedule. Retention improves when students spread out their learning over several weeks, rather than learn in bursts or cramming for an exam. Some students may have problems or concerns about effective time management and should be encouraged to seek out this information.

Why
Emphasizing time on task supports learning by:
- Discouraging cramming.
- Boosting learning and retention.
- Creating a more engaging course.
- Providing reminders and helpful structure for students who need help with time management.

Best Practices to Consider
- Spread deadlines throughout the semester and include them in the syllabus.
- Use the Calendar tool to allow students to see their deliverable deadlines in agenda, weekly, or month format.
- Use the News tool to remind students of important deadlines. For example, “The Mid-term is approaching; please start scheduling study groups now…”
- Use Intelligent Agents to email students who are not logging in or completing modules in a timely manner
- Motivate students with engaging questions and activities.
- Encourage learners to demonstrate solutions during web conferences or breakout rooms.

More Information
Seven Principles Collection of TLT Ideas
- This site provides a list of principles that will encourage students to dedicate more ‘leisure’ time to their classwork.
- URL: http://www.tltgroup.org/Seven/5_Time_Task.htm
The Effect of Time Spent Online on Grades in Online Sociological Courses
- This source explains, with examples, how a student’s involvement in online assignments impacts the grade they earn in an online course.
- URL: http://jolt.merlot.org/vol8no1/ryabov_0312.htm

Creating Effective Web Based Learning Environments
- This document presents web-based learning environments and how they can be used as tools for motivation, instruction, modeling, feedback, and assessment.

Quality of E-Learners’ Time and Learning Performance Beyond Quantitative Time-on-Task
- This site provides information about time quality and the role time flexibility plays in a student’s ability to learn in an online course.

Creating Effective Web-Based Learning Environments: Relevant Research and Practice
- This report explains why authentic tasks in distance learning courses help develop between students, their assignments, and the asynchronous/synchronous tools that they use.
- URL: http://ro.uow.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1030&context=edupapers

CONTACT US
DISTANCE LEARNING CENTER – KENNESAW
3203 CAMPUS LOOP ROAD, MD 5800
KENNESAW, GA 30144
470-578-7550
DISTANCELEARNING@KENNESAW.EDU

DISTANCE LEARNING CENTER – MARIETTA
LIBRARY ANNEX, ROOM C-133, MD 9021
MARIETTA, GA 30060
678-915-3200
DISTANCELEARNING@KENNESAW.EDU