SYNCHRONOUS COMMUNICATION

DESCRIPTION
Synchronous communication is an immediate form of contact between you and your students that takes place simultaneously. This kind of communication can happen in text, audio, or audio-video. Audio-video communications are the richest in intrapersonal content; however they require a lot of bandwidth and therefore are not feasible for all communications.

For text, use chat or pager tool in D2L, or an instant messenger outside D2L. Popular instant messengers include AIM, Google Hangouts, MSN messenger, QQ, and Yahoo messenger. There are instant messaging tools that allow you to operate multiple accounts at once such as Trillian and Pidgin (formerly GAIM). For audio or audio-video, use Wimba in D2L, or a video conferencing tool outside D2L. Popular video conferencing tools include Google Hangouts and Skype.

WHY
Synchronous communication can be beneficial in the following ways:

- Allows you to solicit mutual understanding quickly.
- Provides immediacy for hashing out ideas quickly, such as brainstorming activities.
- Fosters community, similar to face-to-face interactions.
- Through the use of screen share and Google Docs, you can make live corrections to student submissions and provide feedback at the same time.

BEST PRACTICES TO CONSIDER

- Because synchronous communication requires the participants to be available, students need to know ahead of time when to schedule time to participate in synchronous communication.
- You and your students should test any software or devices that will be involved beforehand, such as web conferencing software, web cams, screen share, or microphone.

MORE INFORMATION

Asynchronous vs. Synchronous Communication
- This site provides information about Synchronous collaboration. This source explains how synchronous tools affect you and your students, enabling you to respond to each other right away.
- URL: http://academictech.doit.wisc.edu/ideas/otr/communication/asynchronous-synchronous

EDUCAUSE review online – Asynchronous and Synchronous E-Learning
- This source defines Asynchronous communication and how asynchronous tools allow students to work, manage a family, and take classes online.
**WVI iDesign – eLearning Café – Synchronous & Asynchronous Communication**

- This table explains why your students will be able to access course information anywhere at any time. Synchronous tools and communication also allows for immediate feedback between you and your students.
- URL: http://wvuidesign.blogspot.com/2011/01/synchronous-asynchronous-communication_27.html

**The potential of synchronous communication to enhance participation in online discussions: A case study of two e-learning courses**

- This case study discusses online student participation and how to engage your students.

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