

National Training Aircraft Symposium (NTAS)

2018 - The Changing Role of the Pilot

Aug 14th, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

An Examination of Online Discussions in Higher Education: Leveraging Technology to Increase Learner Engagement and Collaboration

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Mrusek, Bettina M. Ph.D. and De Brito Neto, Felix Ph.D., "An Examination of Online Discussions in Higher Education: Leveraging Technology to Increase Learner Engagement and Collaboration" (2018). *National Training Aircraft Symposium (NTAS)*. 24.

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Despite the popularity of online discussion forums, many do not achieve the intended transfer of knowledge.

- Research question
- Literature Review
- Theoretical Framework
- Research Methodology
- Conclusions and Recommendations



Research Questions

- Q1. Does the inclusion of audio technology, specifically VoiceThread, affect the transfer of knowledge?
- **Q2.** Does the inclusion of audio technology, specifically VoiceThread, affect learner engagement?
- Q3. Does the inclusion of audio technology, specifically VoiceThread, affect learner collaboration?



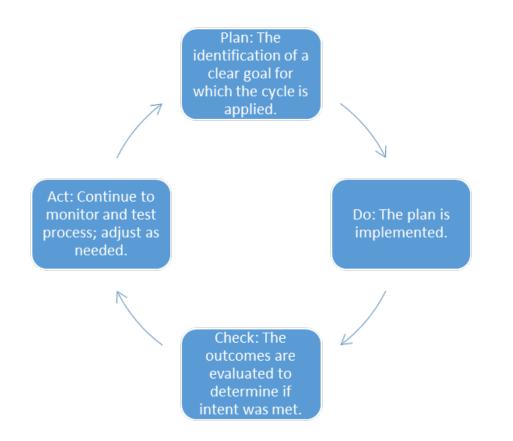
Literature Review

- Evolution of the online learning environment
- Quality
- Role of technology



Theoretical Framework

• Edward Deming's Plan, Do, Check, Act (PDCA) Cycle







Research Methodology

- Independent variable:
 - Discussion forums with enhanced audio/visual applications
 - Discussion forums without enhanced audio/visual applications
- Dependent variable: Engagement of online learners
- Causal-effect relationship
- Pre-test/post-test Quasi-experimental design
- Measure: Grades of participation in discussion forums



Conclusions and Recommendations

 VoiceThread is AWESOME! When used properly, and in the right conditions, it can improve learner engagement and collaboration in aviation and aerospace education.



QUESTIONS?