

Module 1A Discussion Question: *Hello everyone - here's our first discussion question. Try to get started early on this one. To do this, you must do the reading first (The Problems with Training) linked from this Module. Now, this article pertains primarily to face-to-face training workshops, not other types of training such as one-on-one or web-based training. So, after reading the article, think about what your greatest challenge has been in leading group workshops (or what you think it will be if you've never led any). Explain this challenge in detail. Then, using what you've read in the article and any other ideas, react to the postings of at least two classmates with your advice on how they can improve their situation.*

Topic: Module 1B Readings Discussion

Subject: Attendance is my biggest enemy

I run workshops relatively regularly on topics ranging from Information Literacy to creating meeting requests in Outlook, all for faculty, staff, and students. I ran one today on creating PowerPoint presentations in a Public Speaking course :-) I have to say that attendance is my biggest challenge. As a rule, if I can get them there, they stay "in the game": they exchange ideas, they seem interested, most of them learn at least enough to "prove" they've attended. That's not to say all of my workshops are successful. I have had those days where my head is definitely *not* in the room with me, when I can't seem to work up the energy that is critical to keeping the rest of the room "worked up". No amount of careful, thoughtful planning carries a dull presenter through an hour-long workshop – I don't like to admit it, but occasionally, I have been the dull presenter...

Still, attendance is my biggest enemy. The workshops I run for students are usually done during regular class times, so the students are, essentially, a captive audience for whom my workshop is a mandate :-) Faculty and staff, though, are "invited" to attend; we have no formal inducements to offer in exchange for attendance. We don't offer credit for faculty development, and while staff are encouraged to attend in order to list the "learning opportunity" on annual evaluations, our salaries are not merit based and so are not formally impacted by a lack of attendance – or even by actual attendance.

More often than not, attendance is determined by a certain level of "institutional frustration" as a result of a surprise [to the users] upgrade. Enough people land in my office complaining, asking for help, etc. that I re-schedule a workshop for all of the users who didn't see the point in attending the [empty] one that had occurred weeks before.

The "feed 'em and they will come" premise is a good one, and, in fact, our current president has offered to foot the bill for food anytime I think it'll work magic. Unfortunately, most of the workshops that I run are for the purpose of using computer applications, and occur in computer labs where, well... we all know the rule: "No food allowed!"

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Study distance learning background from your readings. You will choose from the following topics to create a presentation, using your readings, and one or more other references that you find:

- *Governance Issues and Distance Education*
- *Effectiveness of Online Learning*
- *Growth of Distance Education in the last decade*
- *Distance Learning and the Globalization of Learning*

Create a 10-slide Powerpoint of Impatica presentation (most preferably with audio) highlighting one of the four topics, and post it to the course bulletin board at least 4 days prior to the end of this module. Provide references on your last slide. Refer to the [Mod 1 DE Basics/ppt_rubric.html](http://www.schoolstreetwest.com/DE_Wgeorgia/OnlineLearningCD/OnlineLearning.ppt).

Topic: Module 1B PowerPoint Presentation Discussion Date: February 17, 2008 5:00 PM

Subject: Online Learning PowerPoint Author: Burnham, Colleen

I have to admit that I've had quite a struggle trying to get my presentation to a point that all of you will be able to view it -- impatica wouldn't embed my .wav files, ppt wouldn't carry my "timing stuff", and firefox won't recognize more than one audio file per slide... argh...??

Anyway. I think I've finally tricked PowerPoint into at least carrying all of my information for me so that what I've put together comes down as a complete presentation -- ...don't know that for sure, but... well, I'm keeping my toes crossed :-)

The "straight-to-it" link is: http://www.schoolstreetwest.com/DE_Wgeorgia/OnlineLearningCD/OnlineLearning.ppt

The file will come down as a ppt compatible/readonly file that needs the user to run the the slideshow. As far as I can tell, this presentation will play itself through. (It should last about 7 minutes. Also, if you don't hear me say "Let's get started", you probably won't hear anything else...)

cjb