Speed Solution

Improving Online Discussions with Protocols

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The Problem(s)

The issue that I faced was encouraging students to provide more developed analysis and feedback through discussion board or journal posts.

In addition:

• Online discussions can become off-topic or include only surface discussions instead of meaningful construction of knowledge.

• Keeping discussions “on-track” can require frequent teacher intervention, moderation, and direction.
A Solution

• Using protocols to guide online discussions

• A protocol is a structured way of having a purposeful conversation that promotes equity, participation, and collaboration by establishing:
  – Clearly defined roles
  – Structured steps for interaction
  – Set time frames

• Discussion of protocol applications in the online classroom
Supporting Research

Online protocols have been found to
- Improve shared cognition
- Promote more student ownership of the discussion
- Empower learners to facilitate themselves
- Reduce instructor workload

(Zydney, deNoyelles, & Seo, 2011)
Additional Resources

http://schoolreforminitiative.org/protocol/

http://www.nsrfharmony.org/protocol/search.html


References


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