

“Roles of a Teacher in a Blended Learning Environment”

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Abstract

Online and blended learning instructional models are among the fastest growing trends in education today. The popularity of blended learning is no surprise; it offers an alternative way to engage students with a remarkable array of learning experiences, particularly for students who struggle in traditional classrooms. It also gives teachers an opportunity to facilitate learning in innovative ways. What’s more, research supports the conclusion that students can learn just as well from blended learning as from traditional classes.¹ But the presence of technology alone is no guarantee that students will succeed. Strong, effective blended learning doesn’t just happen. It requires the work of thoughtful, engaged teachers who leverage the best of technology and face-to-face instruction to address the unique learning styles of their students. Across the country, teachers are changing students’ lives with the help of technology in blended learning classrooms. Teachers are knowledge facilitators, mentors, and coaches in these environments.

Key words: Blended Learning, Role of Teacher

Introduction:

Blended learning, also known as technology-mediated instruction, web-enhanced instruction, or mixed-mode instruction, is an approach to education that combines online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online with physical place-based classroom methods.

¹ Cavanaugh, C. (2013). Student achievement in elementary and high school. In M. G. Moore (Ed.), Handbook of distance education (3rd. ed.) (170 – 184). New York: Routledge.

Blended learning requires the physical presence of both teacher and student, with some elements of student control over time, place, path, or pace². While students still attend brick-and-mortar schools with a teacher present, face-to-face classroom practices are combined with computer-mediated activities regarding content and delivery.³ It is also used in professional development and training settings.⁴

Since blended learning is highly context-dependent, a universal conception of it is difficult. Some reports have claimed that a lack of consensus on a hard definition of blended learning has led to difficulties in research on its effectiveness. A well-cited 2013 study broadly defined blended learning as a mixture of online and in-person delivery where the online portion effectively replaces some of the face-to-face contact time rather than supplementing it. Additionally, a 2015 meta-analysis that historically looked back at a comprehensive review of evidence-based research studies around blended learning, found commonalities in defining that blended learning was "considered a combination of physical f2f [face to face] modes of instruction with online modes of learning, drawing on technology-mediated instruction, where all participants in the learning process are separated by distance some of the time." This report also found that all of these evidence-based studies concluded that student achievement was higher in blended learning experiences when compared to either fully online or fully face-to-face learning experiences.⁵

"Blended learning" is sometimes used in the same breath as "personalized learning" and differentiated instruction.

Definition:

A learning environment that combines face-to-face and computer-mediated instruction. Blended learning combines classroom learning

² "Enhancing Students' Language Skills through Blended Learning". *Electronic Journal of e-Learning*. 14.

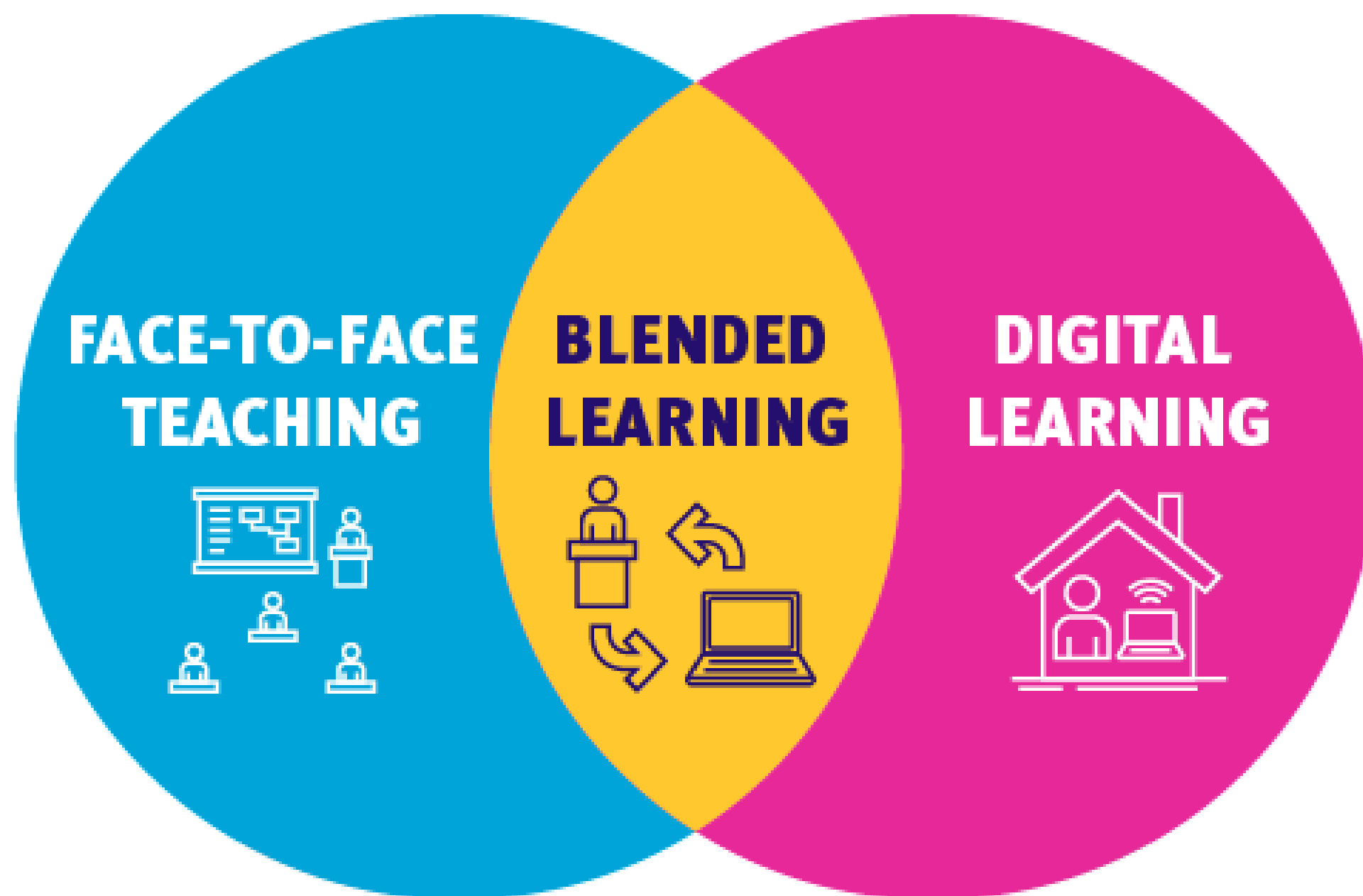
³ Strauss, Valerie (September 22, 2012). "Three fears about blended learning". *The Washington Post*.

⁴ Strauss, Valerie (September 22, 2012). "Three fears about blended learning". *The Washington Post*.

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blended_learning

with online learning, in which students can, in part, control the time, pace, and place of their learning. A combination of a traditional face-to-face classroom and online interaction⁶

*“Blended learning, also known as hybrid learning, is an approach to education that combines online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online with traditional place-based classroom methods.”*⁷



Merits of Blended Learning:

1. Improved Student Engagement.
2. Successful Evaluations.
3. Better Communication.
4. Flexible Accessibility.
5. Collaboration.
6. Personalized Learning.
7. Improved Efficiency.
8. Tracking and Reporting.

Demerits of Blended Learning:

⁶<https://www.google.com/search?q=blended+learning+environment&oq=Blended+Learning+Environment&aqs=chrome.0.0i512i3j0i22i30j0i15i22i30j0i22i30i5.5391j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

⁷ <https://www.learnupon.com/blog/what-is-blended-learning/>

1. The technology challenge. Infrastructure.
2. The technology challenge. Mentality.
3. Pace of advancement.
4. Negative impact on teachers.
5. Negative impact on students.
6. The plagiarism and credibility problem

Role of teacher in Blended Learning Environment:

When students are introduced to blended learning, metacognitive skills are often the first they must learn, as they are essential to deep learning. The teacher becomes a guide, mentor, coach, and support in these situations, helping students “learn about learning” and, as a result, take ownership of their success.

1. Teacher as a mentor :

The Role of the Mentor Teacher. The mentor teacher plays a critical role as the student teacher's model and mentor and has great influence over the student teacher's learning experience. Student teachers tend to adopt the practices of their mentor teachers, sometimes without question, assuming that they have no choice.

2. Teacher as a facilitator:

The teacher's main role is as a facilitator – there to offer support and advice when needed, and to provide the necessary scaffolding and teaching of skills when necessary.

3. Teacher as a coach:

As a teacher-coach, we can create the foundations and the right environment to develop critical thinking. But it's our students who should take ownership of their own learning journey. Students should be taught to self-assess their critical thinking processes and find ways to progress.

4. Teacher as a motivator:

In the learning and teaching process, the teacher is not just directing the learning material, but the teacher must be able to play a role in providing motivation. With this motivation, it can support the spirit of learning and can encourage students to achieve learning goals. As stated in Law.

5. Teacher as a counselor:

The role of teacher as a counsellor is discussed as under: (i) Assist the student to make adjustment to different situations in life. social activities. (iii) Show concern for and assists students in the planning of educational, career, personal, and social development.

In short, these teachers are “becoming true educational designers,”⁸ harnessing the power of these online tools to make their curriculum resonate with students. When educational technology is combined with strong, skilled teachers, it makes for a classroom where teachers are able to build powerful relationships and direct their attention where students need them most. Teachers can spend their time communicating, connecting, facilitating, providing feedback, and ultimately helping all students learn. Great teachers, equipped with great online learning tools, are changing the way students think about school, about their education, and about their lives. They’ re making learning effective, efficient, empowering, and engaging.

Conclusion:

Blended teaching is an instructional approach that uses digital strategies in tandem with best practice in the classroom. In some blended classrooms, digital and face-to-face teaching may alternate according to a fixed schedule. For example, students might take one class on campus and another one entirely online.

Teachers are working harder than ever to tackle some of the most pressing issues that have ever faced our students—higher standards, a difficult economy, and a fast-paced world. As part of their new and challenging work, teachers universally are approval blended learning models—a formal education program in which students learn, in part, through online delivery of content and, in part, in a brick-and-mortar instructional environment.

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