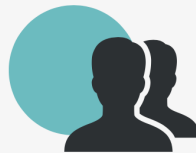




ONLINE LEARNING

A student's perspective

What is it like to be a student in an online environment?



Adjustments

Being an online learner has been a novel experience, filled with reflection, struggles, and academic growth. The transition to online learning caught us all unprepared, and the truth is that my peers and I are still adjusting.

Reimagining learning

The very same challenges that online learning has brought have also been insightful and empowering. The transition has created a good opportunity to reflect on my academic and personal capabilities in the face of change, uncertainty, and constant changes in modality.



The positive aspects of online learning

The role of technology



Expectations VS Reality

Technology has been a blessing and a curse... It has kept us connected and engaged but has also posed a great deal of difficulty. The fact that we are a technology-competent generation has not prepared us enough for this model of learning which when coupled with all that has been happening in the world and our personal lives, requires constant adaptation.

Useful Strategies

Study groups, connecting with other students in breakout rooms, and collaborations are some strategies that have been helpful for me. Opportunities to converse with peers and instructors, hear what they find difficult and have open conversations about ways of improving the learning experience of both the learners and the instructors have been especially valuable.



What has been helpful after all

The Missing Piece



Human Connection

Learning remotely has been quite a lonely experience at times. The missing piece is certainly the human connection and any attempt to strengthen it has been invaluable.

Little Impactful Moments

The most meaningful moments have been the very little ones that make all the difference- events in which the human connection was enhanced. One professor of mine decided to create breakout rooms at the end of every lecture for people to continue to interact for a few more minutes after class in order to simulate the experience of leaving the physical classroom and having a conversation with a peer, whether for the purpose of meeting a new friend or talking about lecture material. This little habit changed the class environment for the better!



What has been helpful in bridging this gap

We know that we are in this together



The elephant in the room

This situation is still hard for everybody! We imagine that our instructors are facing challenges too, and it is beneficial to discuss these points of view in order to feel more connected and accountable.

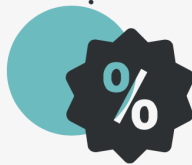
Learning above all

My motivation for online learning comes from my motivation for the learning itself. When the learning objectives are clear and the content feels engaging and relevant enough, learning is a source of motivation regardless of the medium it is provided through.



What motivates me after all

We are all doing our best



Gratitude

This situation is not ideal. But we are truly making the most out of what we have, and that is something to hold onto. I appreciate all the effort my peers and instructors are putting into enhancing this unusual learning experience and keeping us engaged.