

Activity Guide: Facilitation vs. Traditional Instruction

Definitions

Traditional Instruction

- A structured education program that focuses on face-to-face, teacher-centered instruction, including teacher-led discussion and teacher knowledge imparted to students.

Facilitation

- Assisting or making easier the progress or improvement of something.
- Contributing to the fulfillment of a need or furtherance of an effort or purpose.

Ref: Vocabulary.com. (n.d.). Facilitation. <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/facilitation>

Activity

Put the statements below on index cards or copy and paste onto cardstock. On wall, put two pieces of chart paper with the headings “Facilitation” and “Traditional Instruction.” Read definitions to the groups. Shuffle the cards and give each group a mix. Groups should discuss which heading each card fits under and tape the card to the chart paper under the heading they think fits best. Discuss.

Card Content and Key

Facilitation	Traditional Instruction
Discussion-based	Lecture-based
Process-focused	Content-focused
Participants’ voices are heard as much as the presenter’s	Presenter’s voice is the primary voice heard
Participation is essential for process	Participation by learners is optional and lesson is taught regardless
Presenter includes knowledge collected from the group	Presenter maintains most of the knowledge
Manages participant behavior	
Prioritizes experience	Prioritizes theories and content

Debrief

When all cards have been placed on the chart paper, go over each description to see if it is under the correct heading. Note that some descriptions may fall under both headings. Debrief by asking what the overall differences between traditional instruction and facilitation seem to be and where they seem to be (or should be) similar.