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Tracie Groves

## Converting Lecture Based Curriculum to Online Format

With the onset of Covid-19, I was among the many who suddenly needed to adapt and change the format of classes from in-person to online learning. I had to learn more about adapting classes to an online format and engaging with a field I am passionate about in a new way. The face of adult education is changing faster than ever before. It is no longer safe to hold lectures in a tight classroom packed with students. So, most adult educators are having to convert their lecture-based curriculum to an online or hybrid format. Producing effective lecture-based curriculum is not necessarily a skill that translates to producing effective online curriculum. It requires developing a different set of skills that must be honed.

### **Key Takeaways about Asynchronous Education**

### **Knowledge Check**

# Key Takeaways about Asynchronous Education



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Many educators feel that converting lecture-based curriculum into online format means losing the valuable energy and learning-rich environment of a face to face classroom. The focus is placed on what was lost rather than what could be gained.

Yes, it is true that there are many benefits to synchronous education, but there are many benefits to asynchronous as well. If we focus on what we CAN do rather than what we can't, we may find some wonderful new opportunities to improve existing coursework.

**CONTINUE**

**How to Get Started**



## Begin with what you know

Adult education focuses on giving students an understanding of why they are doing something with plenty of hands-on experiences to control their learning experience.

- **Set goals.** Learners who have a specific educational goal in mind will have a better experience as they are exploring curriculum. Adult learners need these goals to feel that learning is in their own hands.
- **Communicate the desired learning outcome.** Knowing why they want to pursue instruction will help adult learners feel confident about the learning process and can help them stay motivated.
- **Find experiences to help facilitate learning.** Adult learners can greatly benefit from hands-on learning. These experiential opportunities can help them get a firmer grasp of their learning and be more excited about how it will translate to real-life.

- *Review information regularly.* Adult learners need to be ready to review their material regularly in order to help secure the knowledge.

**CONTINUE**

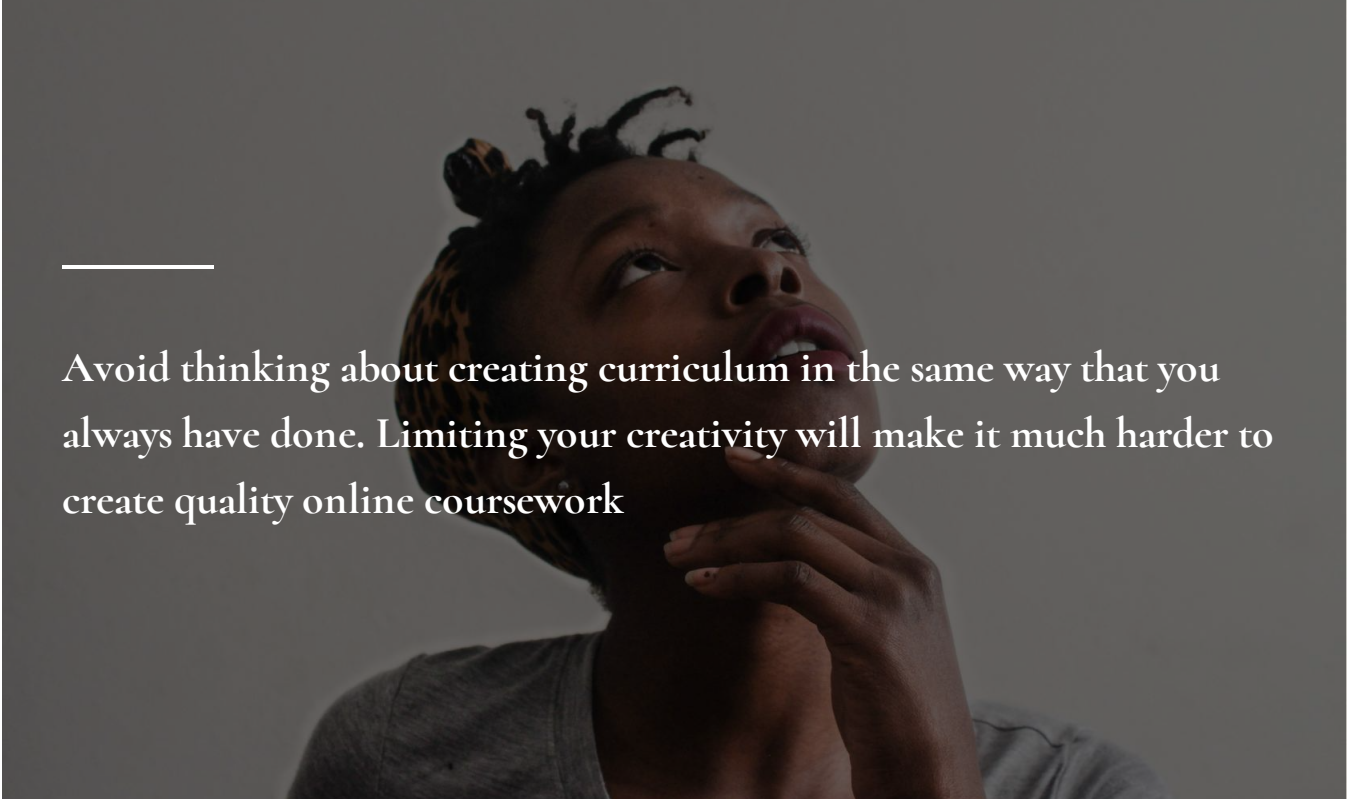
## Reflections



**Think outside the box**

Trying to make synchronous classes work in an asynchronous environment requires thinking about curriculum design in an entirely new way

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Avoid thinking about creating curriculum in the same way that you always have done. Limiting your creativity will make it much harder to create quality online coursework


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**With care and thoughtful planning, asynchronous courses can make a huge impact and can provide ideal andragogy curriculum design**

**CONTINUE**

Here's a great short video explaining Macolm Knowle's Adult Learning Theory, which should be considered when designing curriculum:

 YOUTUBE



**Principles of Andragogy**

Overview of the Principles of Andragogy

**VIEW ON YOUTUBE >**

### Important Considerations when Designing Curriculum

MAKE THE LEARNING PERSONAL	ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS	CONSIDER THE LAYOUT AND DESIGN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Knowles Basic Assumptions of Adult Learners:</u></b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ There is a need to explain the reasons that what is being taught is important and useful.</li></ul></li></ul>		

- Instruction should be task-oriented rather than promoting memorization - learning should include hands on practice of subject matter.
- Instruction should take into account the wide range of different backgrounds of learners; learning materials and activities should allow for different levels/types of previous experience with computers.
- Since adults are self-directed, instruction should allow learners to discover things and knowledge for themselves without depending on people. However, learners should be offered guidance and help when mistakes are made.

MAKE THE LEARNING  
PERSONAL

ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS

CONSIDER THE LAYOUT AND  
DESIGN

### View learning outside of a classroom setting

- Think about curriculum design from a *marketing* point of view.  
How can I best sell my product?  
How can I convey what I'm trying to in the most succinct and captivating way?
- Think about curriculum design from an *entertainment* point of view  
Think of students as an audience.  
The instructor is a performer trying to keep the audience engaged and interested.

MAKE THE LEARNING  
PERSONAL

ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS

CONSIDER THE LAYOUT AND  
DESIGN

- **Put time and energy not only into the content or the curriculum, but in HOW you convey the information.**
  - Think carefully about substance and tone of every communication. Make sure to be inclusive and considerate when designing curriculum. Consult with others to get multiple perspectives and a variety of points of view.



- Ensure that all students are provided with an equitable and supportive learning experience to succeed regardless of their background.
  - For disabled students, proactively address accessibility issues in curriculum and evaluation. Accommodate the needs and abilities of all learners and eliminate unnecessary barriers in the learning process.
  - For traditionally marginalized students, diversify representation in the curriculum. Consider the implications of a more diverse student body.
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- Embrace technology. Stay abreast of all the latest programs and design tools to best serve your students. Never stop learning.

**CONTINUE**



“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I will learn.”

- Benjamin Franklin

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**Summary**

Keeping students engaged and providing an inclusive, rich learning environment is most important when designing online curriculum. We can't view asynchronous and synchronous coursework through the same lens. Neither is better nor worse than the other, they are just different. When given proper consideration and effort, online education can provide a learning rich environment for adults

**CONTINUE**

Lesson 2 of 2

# Knowledge Check

 **Tracie Groves**

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Here are a few questions to see how much you learned

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Question

**01/03**

True or False: Asynchronous curriculum design can be just as effective as synchronous if done properly

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True

False

Question

02/03

When designing online curriculum, what are some key takeaways to consider (check all that apply)

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- Think about how to make sure that your curriculum is inclusive
- Think about an online class exactly the same as face to face learning
- Make your desired learning goals known
- View learning outside the classroom setting by thinking outside the box
- Don't waste time trying to learn new techniques or tools - work with what you know

Question

**03/03**

True or False: Keeping students engaged and providing an inclusive, rich learning environment is most important when designing online curriculum.

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True

False