Teaching with Technology Tip—Flipped Learning
September 30, 2014

The Flipped Learning Network has designated October 1 as FLIP Day, when educators flip one lesson in their classroom. The Flipped Learning movement is an approach which moves direct instruction from the group learning space to the individual learning space; in other words, from the classroom to the student’s own study space (and pace). Flipped learning is more than switching a lecture from the classroom to homework, as it also involves students actively working together in the classroom, with the instructor giving guidance and feedback. The FLIPPED focus asks the question: “Where in the learning cycle do my students most need me face-to-face?”

The first stage of classroom engagement is student preparation, and recorded lectures which students view before coming to class are only one option of building their knowledge base. Reading the textbook and independent research are strategies that have been used for years.

The second, and more important, stage is what students do in the classroom. Flipped learning involves a focus on student-centered learning in a dynamic, interactive environment—when the class meets. In the classroom, the instructor acts as a guide and students work to apply concepts, problem-solve, and think critically about the topics at hand. John Dewey described this learning early in the 20th century!

To support flipped learning, instructors create flexible environments (F) for spaces, timelines and learning expectations. The learning culture (L) shifts from a teacher-centered model to a learner-centered approach where students are actively involved in knowledge construction and personalizing their learning experience. Instructors are intentional (I) in planning content, methods and strategies for student-centered, active learning. Professional (P) roles in the classroom shift to instructors observing student activity, assessing their work, and providing feedback. (Flipped Learning Network, 2014)

Learn more at:
- “Confessions of a Converted Lecturer” by Eric Mazur (Abridged) 18 min.
- Teaching Naked: Why Removing Technology from your Classroom Will Improve Student Learning by Jose Antonio Bowen
- Utah Education Network Flipped Classroom Network
- Flipped Learning Network