

## Chapter 6

## Distance Education: Connecting Learners Beyond the Classroom

## Goal:

Describe distance education and how it can be used to facilitate student learning.

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## Chapter 6 Outline

- Introduction
- Distance Education
- Teaching at a Distance
- Audio in Distance Education
- Television in Distance Education
- Instructional Television Options
- Summary

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## Distance Education Definition/Elements

- Physical separation of learners from the teacher
- Organized instructional program
- Telecommunications technology
- Two-way communication

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## Types of Distance Ed (p. 158)

- Synchronous
  - Occurs at **same** time at different location
- Asynchronous
  - Occurs at different time in a different location
- Blended
  - Mix of time and location

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## Distance Ed Functions

- Information presentation
  - Teacher or student led
  - Presentation, demo, text, illustrations, handouts, voice, etc.
- Practice with feedback
  - Q&A, discussion, testing, group activities like role play or games, etc.
- Access to learning resources
  - Text, worksheets, supplemental readings, A/V materials, library materials, etc.

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## Examples of DE Media (p. 159)

- Audio
  - Audio teleconference, podcasts, audio recordings
- Video
  - TV, podcasts, online video
- Text
  - BB/discussion board posts, email, blogs, wikis

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## DE Roles

- Student
  - Interactive not passive
  - Must be able to use the technology
- Teacher
  - Organize lessons for interactivity and guide/facilitate/monitor learning process
- Facilitator
  - Could be physically located at other sites
- Technology
  - May need to adopt materials for DE

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## Audio Teleconference

- Phone and speaker connection with another site, author, etc.
- Skype
- Pros
  - Cost effective, easy to use, interactive
- Cons
  - Lack of visual information, poor audio, intimidating

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## Television Distribution Systems

- One way TV-no interaction
  1. Broadcast transmission
  2. Satellite transmission
  3. Microwave transmission
  4. Closed-circuit transmission
  5. Cable transmission
  6. Online transmission (ch 7)

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## Instructional Television Options

- Broadcast
  - i.e. PBS, NOVA
  - Instructional television (ITV)
    - 15-30 minutes long depending upon grade level and repeated throughout week to assist classroom scheduling
  - Elementary education-Sesame street
  - Middle-level/secondary education-evening news or documentary
- Interactive television
  - One-way video, two-way audio
  - Two-way video, two-way audio

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## Instructional TV

- Pros
  - Extra resources to enhance study
  - Easy to use
  - Advanced study for certain students
  - Combines media to enhance interest
- Cons
  - Extra expenses for services and resources
  - Interactive classroom availability may be limited
  - Scheduling may be difficult
  - Limited experience of the students

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## When to Use Audio Telecommunications

- Connecting students with resource people
- Reaching the rural student
- Working collaboratively with other students
- Reaching a student unable to attend class due to long-term illness or disability

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## When to Use Broadcast Television

- Reinforcing classroom instruction
- Expanding the textbook material
- Reaching the rural student
- Supplemental information
- Keeping current

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