Creating Inclusivity & Responsiveness with Microinstruction in the Delivery and Design of Blended and Online Instruction

Lindsay Mitchell, M.Ed., CAGS, MPA

Prepared for: OLC Innovate 2022
About Me:

Lindsay Mitchell, MPA, CAGS, M.Ed.

➔ 15+ years of classroom experience
➔ 14+ years online education experience
➔ Nationally published through Edutopia
➔ Three graduate degrees: MPA, CAGS, M.Ed.
➔ Graduate research focused on use of microinstruction practices in educational settings
➔ Dozens of webinar/conference presentation on a wide range of educational topics
➔ Consultant and coach through professional development companies and area schools/school districts

Questions? Need further help? Contact Me!

linzemitchell@gmail.com
603-986-7001
Session Goals:

By the end of this session I can:

- Define microinstruction and explain when it is appropriate
- Identify 2 characteristics of microinstruction in blended or online learning
- Identify at least 1 best practice that they can implement in my own practice
“Barriers exist in design and instruction, not learners.”
Microinstruction: The Idea

It not simply enough to give a learner (or user) access to information, resources, and instruction. It is equally important to simplify how the information is presented, accessed, and explained so that anyone make sense of the content and its purpose. This will lead to greater engagement and success for a wider range of learners.
Microinstruction: A definition

Microinstruction is the practice of chunking, clarifying, simplifying, and diversifying all aspects of instruction, which includes: access to course materials, content, delivery, and assessment.

Simplicity + Clarity = Inclusion
“Are our courses and course content designed with the learner in mind...or the expert?”
Real World Realities:

➔ This is an idea and an approach, it will be different for each person & organization.

➔ Some specific parts will not be wholly possible depending on our LMS or our current systems BUT

➔ Implementing ideas or overall concepts can be useful!
Let's do an sample asynchronous mini-lesson on the basics of microinstruction!

Scan QR code or click on link in chat to begin the lesson
So, what did we see there?

- Smaller Portions of Instruction
- Bite-Sized Content (with links to whole document)
- Device-Friendly Activities
- Introduction to Basic Concepts
- Responsive to Learner/Instructor
- Simple instructions
Best Practices Moving Forward:

- How long does it take someone to find what they need?
- Are our materials device friendly?
- Is all the information really necessary?
- How can we achieve our goals with less?

Content should be found and used in under 5 minutes.

Hyperlink-accessible content makes this easier.

Give critical information and links to entire documents/resources.

Instead of larger activities/assessments, break them into smaller pieces.
A Scenario:

Your school organization has a course where all course content is online. Students use an online textbook that requires a separate login to use, review materials, and submit practice activities. Within your course, you have additional readings, videos, and assessments that students need to complete. This course has been set up with way for many years and the structure is generally accepted by the faculty.

However, you have noticed that students are repeatedly confused on where to find content and it is overwhelming for you to track down the different assignments. You are finding that students don’t seem to be doing the entire readings (including the syllabus), watching the entire videos, and are getting timed out on assessments.

You would like to make some changes to make this better for all, but where do you start?

Reflect on the Discussion Board below:

- What things can you likely NOT change?
- What changes could you make fairly easily?
- What changes will require more effort (but be worth it)?

Scan QR code or click on link in chat
Take care and make sure to

- Be careful on the number of tools/programs you use
- Understand that this is a general approach, each person’s application will be different.
- SIMPLIFY!
- Regularly assess if you are making information as EASY to access and understand (it’s purpose)
Evaluate Sessions and Win!

- Navigate to specific session to evaluate
- Select “Evaluate Session” on session details screen
  - Complete session evaluation*

*Each session evaluation completed (limited to one per person per session) = one contest entry. **Five (5) $25 gift cards** will be awarded.
Thank you for your time!

Questions? Need further help? Contact Me!

linzemitchell@gmail.com
603-988-7001