


**Managing Mayhem:
Strategies for Virtual K-12 Classrooms**
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Unique Needs and Challenges for K-12 Online Teachers




- Experienced teachers transferring skills to new environment.
- Insufficient professional development
- Management tasks
 - Time management
 - Content management
 - ‘Classroom’ management

Rice, K., Dawley, L., Gassal, C., and Florez, C. (2008) *Going Virtual: Unique Needs and Challenges of K-12 Online Teachers*. Boise State University with North American Council for Online Learning. pp. 3-4. Retrieved 6/25/09 from <http://edtech.sdsu.edu/~kprince/onlinelearning/chaos.pdf>

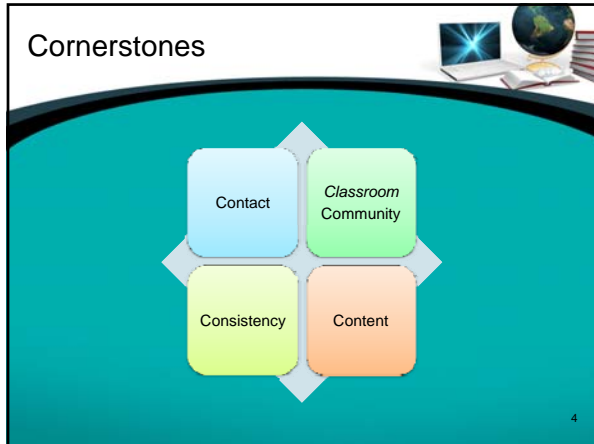
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Building a more solid foundation



- Power Tools for
 - Collaborative ‘social learning’
 - Personal discovery
 - Interactivity
 - Communication
 - Learning objects and activities
 - Management of files, student submissions, and correspondence


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- ### Contact
- As early as possible
 - As personalized as possible
 - Reduce potential for problems
 - Provide clear expectations
 - Establishing identities and 'social presence'
 - Introductory discussion
 - Student photo directory

- ### Managing the Online Classroom Community
- Sense of connection
 - Established norms (expectations)
 - Roles in the classroom community
 - Learning styles - teaching styles
 - Sense of balance of power
 - “transactional distance”
 - Structure and dialogue


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Managing the Classroom Community



- Interactivity*
 - Interaction with a teacher
 - Communication with other students
 - Online communication and activities facilitated by the school but outside of class activities
 - Activities that involve bringing students together in physical locations or real-time online (web conference)
 - Social networks and Web 2.0 technologies.

*From: Watson J. and Gemin B. (2008) *Promising Practices in Online Learning: Socialization in Online Programs*. North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL) p. 6. Retrieved 6/25/09 from http://www.nacol.org/resources/promisingpractices/NACOL_PP_Socialization.pdf

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Content



- Teacher's team:
 - Technologist/technical support
 - Instructional Design for technology integration
 - Administrative support for innovation and experimentation
 - Professional community of online teachers sharing knowledge

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Content




- Learning objects and activities
 - revise, reuse, retrieve
- Pacing for guided learning
 - within the established structure
 - facilitation not delegation
- Timing and 'time on task'
 - Consistent, reliable scheduled access
 - Estimation of time to complete activities
- Managing files and student submissions
 - Structure established, maintained, and required

For example...

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Content




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 - revise, reuse, retrieve
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For example...

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Consistency



- Maintain routine
 - Reliable
 - Sustainable
- Maintain patterns
 - Location of material
 - Division of tasks (reading, discussion, activity)
 - Submission of work completed (file/email)
- Maintain schedule
 - Advanced notice of change
 - Explanation for change

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Cornerstones

The diagram features a central blue arrow pointing upwards with the word "Confidence" written across it. Surrounding this arrow are four colored boxes: a light blue box labeled "Contact" at the top left, a light green box labeled "Community" at the top right, a light yellow box labeled "Consistency" at the bottom left, and a light orange box labeled "Content" at the bottom right. The entire diagram is set against a teal background with a decorative top border.

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Resources

- Garrison, D. & Anderson T. (2003) E-learning in the 21st century. London: RoutledgeFalmer.
- Hughes, J., McLeod, S., Brown, R., Maeda, Y., & Choi, J. (2005). Staff development and student perception of the learning environment in virtual and traditional secondary schools. Naperville, IL: Learning Point Associates.
- Kanuka, H., Liam Rourke, L., & Laflamme, E. (2007). The influence of instructional methods on the quality of online discussion. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 38(2), 260-271.
- Moore, M. G. (1993). Theory of transactional distance. In D. Keegan (Ed.) *Theoretical Principles of Distance Education*. New York: Routledge.

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Continuing the conversation...

- Wiki <http://k-12distance.wikispaces.com/>
- Blog <http://www.necc2008.org/profiles/blogs/k12-distance-learning> and <http://k12online.edublogs.org/>
- Ning <http://www.necc2008.org/profile/LujeanBaab>

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Direct Connect



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