



Flex Classrooms

Heather Engelhart
Waubonsee Community College - Adult Education Instructor



What is Flex Instruction



[David J. Rosen director of the Adult Literacy Resource](#)*

Hybrid	combination of in-person and online instruction
Blended	models are hybrid models in which both the in-person and online components are well integrated. - Set in advance
Flex models (HyFlex and BlendFlex)	have <u>three</u> instruction/learning modes: 1) in-person, 2) synchronous online and 3) asynchronous online.

Students have the FLEXibility of which modality works for them.

Designed so that all three modes are equally able to provide high-quality learning that will enable students to meet instructional objectives/intended outcomes



Underlying Principles/Values of Flex Models

....

Learner CHOICE

Equivalency

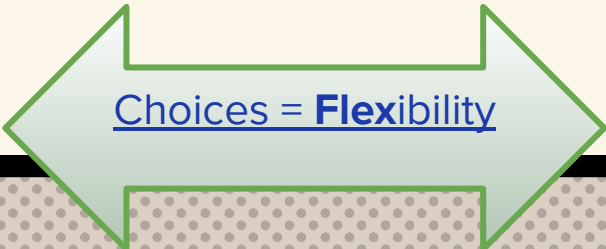
Reusability

Accessibility



Learner Choice

- Provide meaningful **alternative** participation modes and enable students to choose between participation modes daily, weekly, or topically.
- Students have a choice of how they complete activities.



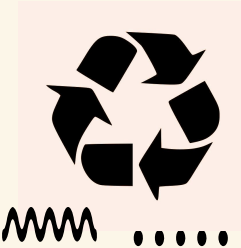
Choices = Flexibility





Reusability

- *Utilize artifacts from learning activities in each participation mode as “learning objects’ for all students.*
- Access to all materials and lessons

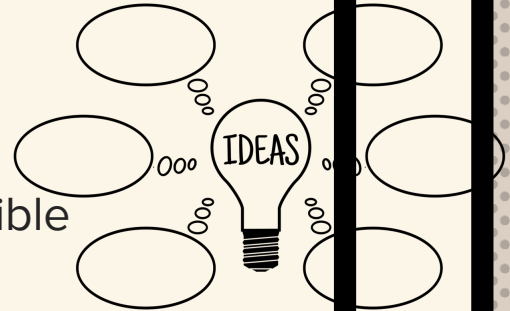


Accessibility

- *Equip students with technology skills and equitable access to all participation modes.*

Can your institution provide the necessary technologies?

- Materials and activities need to be accessible and usable for all students.



Equivalency

- *Provide learning activities in all participation modes which lead to equivalent learning outcomes. What works for one student may not work for another*
- In all modes (asynchronous, F2F, or remote) students will: **Reflect, Interact, Contribute Ideas**



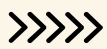
Let's try Nearpod

..... What does a Flex Model look like?

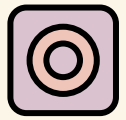




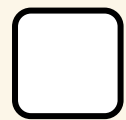
Flex Tech: Hardware to think about.....



Not limited to:



Tools to
video
record an
in-person
session



Electronic
White-
board tools



Audio
Solutions:
microphones,
speakers,
headsets,etc



Digital Devices:
access to
computer
devices for
each learner in
the in-person
classroom and
remotely



Flex Tech: software to think about

Not limited to:

Web Conferencing

Zoom
WebEx
Google Meet
Teams

Digital Instruction/ Assessment, etc

Jamboard
Flipgrid
Google Docs
Quizziz
Remind

LMS

Canvas
Blackboard
Moodle
Google Workspace

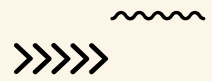
Course/ Curriculum Management

Burlington English
Essential Ed/GED
Academy
EnGen
USA Learn



.....

Flex Tech Cautions



Tech Challenges	Some of the hardware and software may be challenging for instructors and for learners; sometimes it can be a steep learning curve.
Five C's of Tech Resilience	Needed both for instructors and learners: Competence, Comfort, Curiosity, Courage and Creativity
Instructors as course designers	Instructors may need to think of themselves as helping to design courses to meet learners' needs, not just learning the tech to "deliver" a course in the three modes.



A Few Flex Classroom Examples

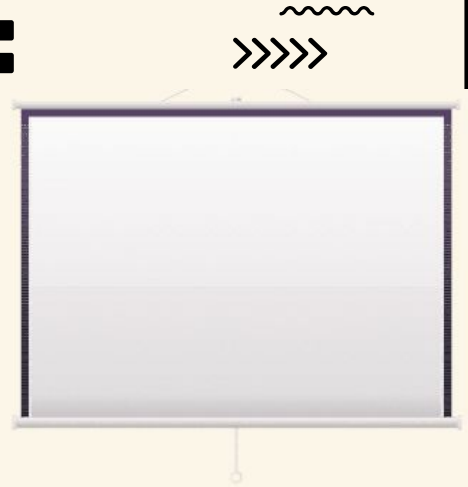
Basic but it works:

.....

Zoom - web conferencing platform

Camera to show students in person

Monitors/ screen to project shared screen





Meet Gertrude, the Literacy Chicago Owl:

.....

Joanne Telser-Frere
Director of Program Development

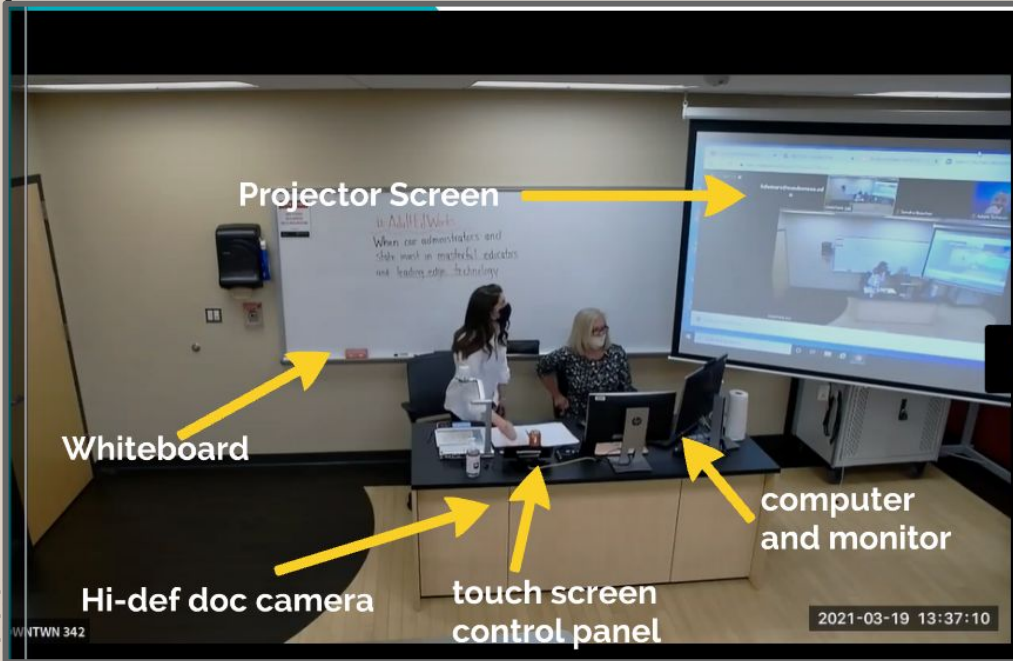


Gertrude
Our Cute Owl!

What can she do?

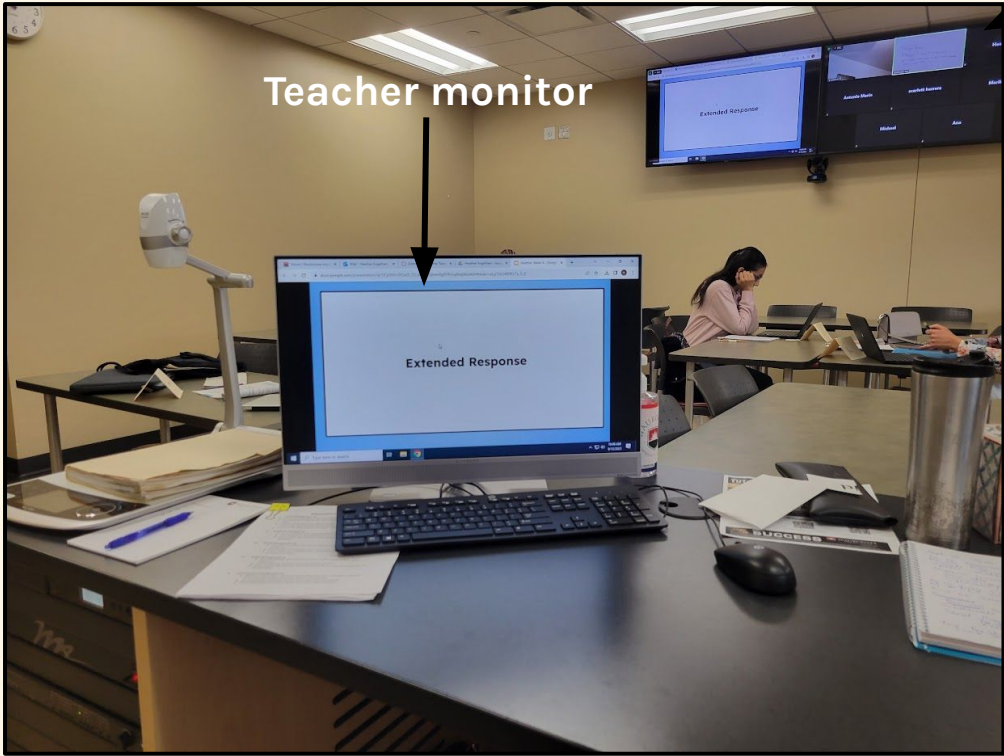


A little more high tech...

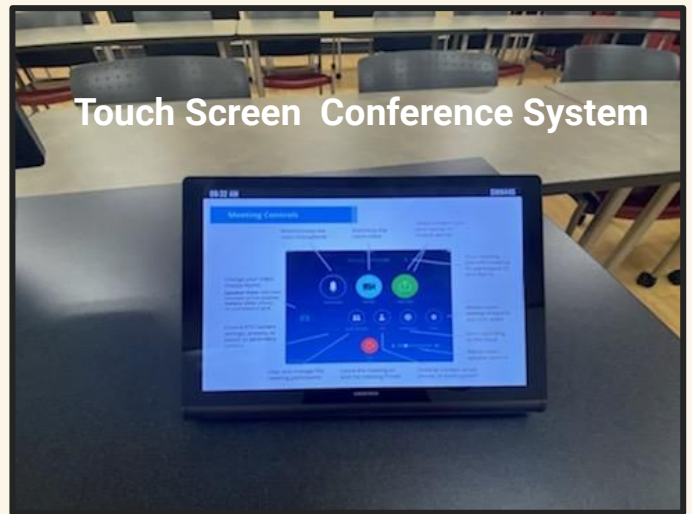


Classroom monitors

Teacher monitor



Touch Screen Conference System





zoomers/class screens



**Audio Speaker/
microphone**

Projector

Teacher contro





Disadvantages (varies with technologies used)

- **Background noise**
- **Turning microphones on and off**
- **Correct position in front of camera**
- **Hearing each other**
- **Technical difficulties**
- **Students' poor digital/literacy skills = disturbance for in person students (connecting, finding link, arriving late..)**
- **Learning curve - for instructor**
- **Not knowing how many students will show up in the classroom**
- **Cost**



Advantages (varies with technologies used)

- **No matter the weather, we are together (retention)**
- **Increasing class enrollment**
- **Breakout rooms - online and in person**
- **Work on the same lesson at the same time**
- **Increase participation with alternative modes**
- **Increased equivalent learning experiences**
- **Access to material after the live session**
- **Students can take control of their learning with choices**



References

Beatty, B.J. (2019). Values and Principles of Hybrid-Flexible Course Design. In B.J.Beatty, Hybrid-Flexible Course Design: Implementing student-directed hybrid classes. EdTech Books https://edtechbooks.org/hyflex/hyflex_values

Rosen, David J. (2022). Technology Solutions for Adult Foundational Education Challenges. Proliteracy.org. <https://www.proliteracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/4.2.11-Rosen-Column.pdf>

Flex models at Waubonsee Community College:
<https://facultydae.waubonsee.edu/instruction/delivery/flex-introduction>



Questions



