Feedback: Topic 1, Assignment 1
Distance Education

In this assignment you were to view the provided video and list all of the traditional instructional strategies that you found mentioned or implied. Next to each traditional instructional strategy (mentioned or implied), you were to list all of the possible digital technologies and strategies that could be used. You were asked to review Bloom's new Digital Taxonomy and to think outside the box.

Below is the example that was provided for you on the wiki.

** Do indicate if these traditional instructional are mentioned or is implied.

Traditional Strategies	Digital Strategies and Technologies
Roll Call (**Implied)	• Kiosk set up at the back of the room with a thumb scan. • Classroom Response System/Clickers

What was "your" assumption about this assignment?   Was your assumption that the technologies you suggested going to be used in a traditional Face-to-Face (F2F) classroom where the teacher is the font of all knowledge and learning **or** in a Blended/Hybrid learning model?

As I read through each of your responses, below is a brief summary of the class' suggested digital strategies for this assignment.

- Social Media and VOIP such as:
  o Blogs
  o Wikis
  o Social Bookmarking
  o Twitter
  o IM
  o Facebook
  o Skype (with and without webcams)

Some of you mentioned using Skype, some mentioned using VOIP such as Skype, and others mentioned other VOIP software by name. Just be aware that VoIP is a genre and SKYPE is one brand within that category; another example is the iPod, which is an example (brand) of mp3 player. People often speak about their iPod, when in fact they own some other brand. Southern culture includes the use of "coke" to mean "a carbonated soft drink" or "Kleenex" meaning 'tissue'. Just be aware of these differences in your terminology.

- Other strategies mentioned included:
    o Discussion Forms
    o eBooks/eReaders
    o Response Clickers
    o Poll Software and Online Surveys
    o Second Life
    o Automated Tests
    o Interactive Whiteboards
    o Online Video
    o Simulated games
    o Podcasts
    o Capture tools such a Camtasia and Tegrity
    o Web-Conferencing Software
    o Mobile Apps
    o Cloud Computing
    o Learning Management Systems (LSM)

THE NEXT STEP: ONLILNE

You did a "great" job of identifying possible strategies for the classroom in the video, perhaps even for Blended/Hybrid instruction. Now . . . let's take it up a step on up the ladder of interactive technology. Go back to "your" original wiki page with the table you produced for this assignment. At the bottom of your Table, Type: Part 2:   Below Part 2: make a new table with 3 Columns and make the Categories (Field Names) be: F2F, Blended, and Online. See below:

F2F	Blended	Online

1. Go back to your original list of digital strategies and put them in their proper category. Some strategies will be in more than one category.

2. As a group, work collaboratively to build a Bibliography of articles pertaining to each digital strategy. You can determine as a group how you will determine how this will be accomplished.

Now that we have all of these digital strategies and many more which can be utilized in an online learning environment, we should ask questions such as:

1. Is online learning interactive, collaborative, and engaging?

    - Assumption Questions? What is interaction? How can it be measured?

2. Do students in online learning courses perform better than those receiving F2F class instruction?

A recent study, Evaluation of Evidence-Based Practices in Online Learning A Meta-Analysis and Review of Online Learning Studies, by SRI International for the Department of Education, examined the comparative research on online versus traditional classroom teaching from 1996 – July, 2008. This meta-analysis (revised September, 2010) came to the following conclusion: "On average, students in online learning conditions performed better than those receiving face-to-face instruction".

Each of you please answer the following questions on the class wiki as indicated, although I want you to "talk/collaborate" with one another in the class as you answer these questions.

1. What were the measures used in this study?
2. How did the researchers define "better"?
3. How did the researchers define "performance?