ESL 263

Draft # 3

Title: “Online Courses’ Limitations Hurt Students”

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The lack of face-to-face time can lead to online courses hurting low-achieving students. Classroom teachers can observe the students’ behavior in classroom. The observations can lead to praises and criticisms help low performing students to improve themselves. However, online platforms do not face to face time. Online instructors cannot observe the students in action. (jump)online courses use discussion forums as a communication tool between students and teachers. Discussion forums, however, take time for teachers to respond. The large size of classes can keep them from timely responses. The delay leads to less improvement in learning. A study in Chicago schools highlights the outcome. Failing students were randomly put in online algebra courses or their classroom counterparts where the online students learned less than the former’s students (Dynarski 2). Online students’ reduced learning suggests online courses’ limitations lead to hurting underachievers. Online courses hurt them because their limitations are keeping them from allowing face-to-face time with the instructors.

Online courses also hurt low-achieving students since they lack self-regulation skills to stay focused. These skills are vital to managing distractions in online courses because students can easily get distracted from using a computer. But low-achieving students lack the ability to stay on track. My experience with Harvard’s introductory online Computer Science course, CS50 is a prime example. A CS50 class can last up to 120 minutes. I took CS50 because I was struggling in my traditional college coding classes. However, I found myself constantly distracted after 30 minutes and looking at Netflix videos. Watching Netflix videos meant that it took longer to finish lectures. I learned less, leading to failing all over again. My failing grades in CS50 shows underperformers in online courses are more susceptible to distractions. Since the lack of self-control makes them more vulnerable to getting sidetracked, online courses fail underachievers rather than helping them.

Original Sentences: Students who had failed algebra were randomly assigned either to online or to face-to-face recovery courses. The results were clear: Students in the online algebra courses learned much less than those who worked with a teacher in a classroom.

Works Cited

Dynarski, Susan. “Online Courses Fail Those Who Need Help.” *New York Times*, 21 January. 2018, p.BU3.