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AW11

Reader's Response: Face-to-face or face-to-screen?

The article considers the differences in online and face-to-face tertiary education. It notes that flexibility is a plus for online learning, but students usually prefer face-to-face interactions for engagement (especially with discussions). The excerpts imply that both modalities are essential, but student experience and preferences should carry some weight. The growing importance of online learning in the "digital landscape" is emphasized, calling for further investigation to optimize the learning experience in both online and face-to-face environments.

The article offer important perspectives on the ongoing discussion correlating online learning and face-to-face interaction. I applaud the balanced view that seems to consider both types of learning experiences as strengths. It fits with my experience that online learning may afford convenience, yet it usually falls short of that immediacy and dynamism of interaction that one finds in classroom discussion. The focus on "student experience" is of utmost importance, reminding educators that learning isn't solely concerned with content but also the having of an engaging and supportive environment. Thus, the call for more research becomes particularly relevant in the context of this need for evidence-based practices to define the landscape for the future of education in an ever more digital world. Hence, in the end, these excerpts point to the fact that a blended solution, leveraging online learning and face-to-face classroom learning, may well be the most efficient way to cater to diverse needs among students and create the best possible learning experiences.