

I Want You To Visit My Class But You're So Far Away: Using Expert Visitors At A Distance

It can be a significant learning experience for students to have the opportunity to meet and interact with experts, but frequently the expert resides at a considerable distance from the institution. There are a variety of ways to bring distance expertise into the classroom, whether that classroom is virtual or brick-and-mortar.

This paper will look at how three faculty representing three different teacher preparation programs in three different states, teaching different course make use of the same visitor-at-a-distance to enhance their students' classroom experiences.

Two of the courses use a blended synchronous/asynchronous approach while the third is a primarily synchronous. Course content and student audience is different between the three. But what makes this group interesting is they all invited the same person to make a guest appearance in their class.

Because each course is different; each of the three faculty members will describe their class and the goals for their course and expectations for the visitor. They will also talk about the technologies used and rationale for their use. The expert visitor common to all three courses will serve as the panel moderator.

The moderator has experience as the visitor-at-a-distance with other courses and will add that perspective to the session.

The panel will engage the audience in the discussion asking them to share their own experience with outside experts in their classes and particularly with visitors-at-a-distance.