

MIT 514: Guided Reading Workshop

Context

This distance education workshop was developed as part of the requirements for MIT 514: Distance Education under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Summerville during the Summer 2005 session. This course is focused on the theories and models of distance education in various formats. The purposes of this project include:

- Designing, developing, and evaluating instructor-led and learner-directed distance education lessons.
- Understanding multiple context and purposes of distance education.

Conditions

Because of my experience both in a classroom setting as a trainer in the school system, I felt comfortable designing training for teachers but had never used distance education technologies for presenting information. This project was completed to facilitate staff development courses within a large, rural county in which no central locations for training were readily available and therefore, the county was looking for new options to present instruction. I was very comfortable with the materials being presented because of my experience using guided reading and providing staff development so the content was easily developed.

Scope

This project was completed as one lesson of a larger unit of study that can be used by a school system or school in training teachers to use guided reading in their classroom. The county the project was initiated for needed the distance education option because of their rural setting but it could also be used in any setting. Currently, the project is under consideration but has not been implemented because of funding and technology issues.

Role

I was the primary designer and developer of this workshop. I completed the analysis of needs and learners for design and developed all instructional materials. In the demonstration of the lesson, I utilized a colleague who works as a Kindergarten reading teacher to aid in the actual presentation of instruction as a distance liaison. In addition, I had access as needed to the instructor, classmates, materials, and distance education lab for designing and developing the lesson.

Reflection

I enjoyed having the opportunity to apply my knowledge and skills related to guided reading and primary education to a distance education setting. It was interesting to see the differences in presentation planning and implementation between distance and regular education. I would like to have the opportunity to experience other types of distance education settings in the future both as a students and instructor and well as design and develop an entire curriculum to be presented at a distance.