

# Demonstrating Online K12 Teaching Strategies in a Moodle Course Management Environment

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**Abstract:** The goal of this project was to provide a model of a virtual environment that allows graduate students in the program to develop and practice online teaching strategies geared towards the K12 classroom. The graduate students who are also practicing teachers developed teaching resources using Moodle, a free, open-source course management system. Teaching resources to be discussed and demonstrated in this presentation include lesson plans, wikis, synchronous and asynchronous discussion areas, FAQs, and assessment tools.

The goal of this project was to provide a model of a virtual environment that allows graduate students to develop and practice online teaching and management strategies. The graduate students who are also practicing teachers developed resources using Moodle, a free, open-source course management system. Students were also provided with an online learning environment with sample material such as demonstration online modules, communication and assessment activities, and instruction on implementing and managing their own Moodle servers.

This project followed a model of community practice and distributed cognition, where thoughts, experiences, and other artifacts were developed and shared among instructors and students. The number and type of the interactions related to the teaching/learning activities showed evidence of mutual engagement that all members contributed instructional materials, instructional strategies, and troubleshooting advice.

This project provides a model for improving online teaching quality and providing support and development through a distributed environment. The project increased sharing of resources for online courses and promoted collaboration among the graduate students. Recommendations were collected and put forth for the further development of this model and suggestions for the transfer of this technology to other higher and K12 education settings where Moodle can be effectively used. Teaching resources to be discussed and demonstrated in the presentation include lesson plans, wikis, synchronous and asynchronous discussion areas, FAQs, and assessment tools.

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