More Than Copy & Paste
Online Teaching and Pedagogic Practice

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My goals

To explain my interest in the topic

To discuss some differences between F2F and Online teaching

To provide an example from my own teaching experience
(Me)search

Research = (me)search; it’s personal

Related to my dissertation project

**Most important:** How can I become a better teacher, particularly online
My background

Online Student ➔ Online Instructor

3+ years experience teaching online at all different levels of higher education in WA state

Taught a variety of courses online
How Did I Learn to Teach F2F

- TA/RA conference
- Watching others
- Mentorship from other TAs/faculty
- Programs like Center for Teaching and Learning
How Did I Learn to Teach Online
A need for sharing

Without training or mentorship, finding what works online is predominately through trial and terror – I mean error! and error, and error…..

Sharing practices can keep us out of the flames
Teaching Online

- NOT copy and paste from brick & mortar

- Instead, online instructors must:
  - Frequently adapt teaching style
  - Find new ways to measure student success
  - Thereby, measuring their own success
The How-2

1. How do I know if my students are understanding and synthesizing the course content?

2. How do I know if I am an effective online teacher?
In-Class

Head nod

Blank Stare
In-Class

Tilted head of confusion

Lost Cause
But online…

There are no visual signifiers

No face(s) to read

No body language to indicate interest or engagement
Instead

Students “engage” in the class through asynchronous DBs, written assignments, quizzes and tests.

We “read” only their words
So what do I do?

Students are required to do two assignments in every course I teach:

A PRE-course reflection AND
A POST-course reflection
The Pre-Course Reflection

What do you know about x topic?

What do you hope to learn in this class?

What is the reason you took this class?
The Post-Course Reflection

Students must return to their pre-course reflection and...

Demonstrate synthesis of material through talking about where they started and where they are now

And what they took away from the course
The Post-Course Reflection

Students must return to their pre-course reflection and…

Demonstrate synthesis of material through discussing where they started out and where they finished

And what they took away from the course
Why this works

Gives students a chance to evaluate themselves
Gives me the chance to see if they understood the materials
Gives MUCH better course feedback that ANY “official” eval I have ever done
The Take-Away

Teaching online requires adaptation

Measuring success online can be challenging but there are ways to do so

Sharing experience with other online instructors creates a learning community
Time’s Up!

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  – Quick bio: 5th year PhD student in GWSS whose dissertation research focuses on the need for learning communities for online instructors