

## Excerpts from

# Chapter 14: Teaching Online

Quality of online teaching, however, has often been uneven and is a key area that requires attention if this fast-growing medium is ultimately going to serve well the needs and interests of adult learners. This chapter is designed to help guide the new teacher of adults who is working in an online environment to be a more effective instructor. In many ways the risk of having a less-than-stellar experience using computers is higher than with face-to-face instruction because of fear of technology on the part of many learners (and teachers!) and the potential depersonalizing influences of technology itself.

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Now, let's get to the heart of the matter—ways to be effective as an online teacher of adults. In this chapter we shall discuss ten key factors that will contribute to you and your students having a high quality teaching experience online. Each of these factors will be explained using examples from our own recent online experiences. The ten factors are:

1. Create and nurture a supportive learning environment
2. Clear organization and communication
3. Consistent teacher presence
4. Cooperation among students
5. Meaningful learning activities and assessment
6. Prompt feedback
7. Efficient course management
8. Helping learners to stay on-task
9. Accommodate learners' interests and learning styles
10. Support for technical problems