

Reflection to Support Evidence – Non-LMS Build

Course Learning Outcomes Satisfied:

- Be familiar with common terms, definitions and elements related to Learning Management Systems (LMS) and non-LMS environments.
- Create assessment and evaluation methods/tools most suitable to the strengths and challenges of LMS and non-LMS environments.

OLTD Learning Outcomes Satisfied:

- Critically assess and evaluate resources for best practice in online learning
- Select strategies and resources appropriate for environment, learners and learning outcomes

Critical Challenge Question:

- How can Learning Management Systems (LMS and/or Non-LMS) help me develop courses where students learn in the best way for them (teacher-structured/personalized), while providing me with the tools I require for efficient and efficacious presentation, moderation, support, and assessment (for, as, and of learning)?

For my second piece of evidence for OLTD 504, I chose the Non-LMS Build I created for Week 4 assignment. In this build I created a toolkit of apps and resources that would help me create a course that would successfully engage students for the various aspects of an online course.

Following the LMS build we did in Week 3, we were tasked with selecting the tools and resources we would use in a Non-LMS environment. While having an LMS simplifies many parts of creating a course, there isn't always one available in the school/district you may be in and it is expensive to license the software. Being able to use free or inexpensive tools to create an engaging and fun course is important. To begin with, I needed to know what I was looking for so it is important to know all the terms and elements related with creating a course. Landing pages, external links, embedded media, and even basic use of scripts are just some of the elements necessary in building the course. The next step was to evaluate a variety of tools and resources to come up with a toolkit that were appropriate for the environment, learners, and learning outcomes. I chose to evaluate the tools and resources as well as assess them on the following criteria: Pedagogical Merit, Accessibility, Cost, and Functionality. Finally I came up with a list of apps, tools, and resources that I would use to create and facilitate an online course. I think this will be a valuable resource both for me in both online and offline environments.

When teaching online, it is important to know what you are talking about! Younger students will likely already know many of the terms as part of the daily lives whereas older students will have learned them through study. In any case, it is important to have assessed and understood the tool or resource through a critical evaluation process to make sure you are up to date as to what you intend to present. It is also important to have various backups in case one or more of the tools or resources don't work with a particular group of students and their learning styles. In terms of LMS environments, one never knows when their school or district might implement one. Knowing how to use one kind of LMS will help with learning most others that may be put into place at a later date.