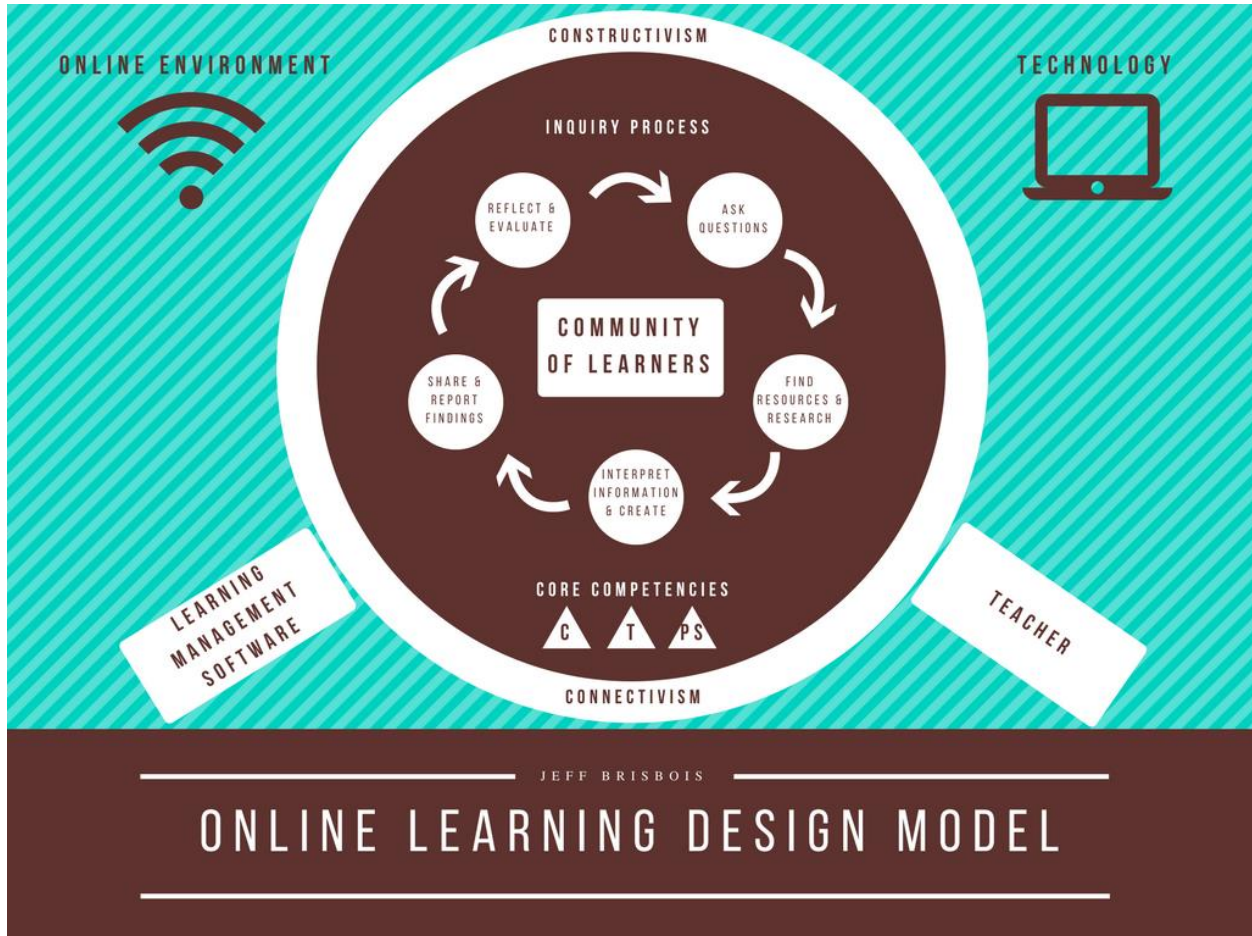


Topic 6 Homework: Online Learning Design Model

Graphic:



Rationale:

To explain my online learning design model, I will start from the core and work my way out to the supporting structures. At its core the model has a community of learners. This represents that learners are the most important part of the model and that all the other aspects revolve around them and are designed to support them. Putting learners first should be the foundation of any learning model and the one I have created is no different. I also chose to include the word community in the centre of my diagram because I believe that a community environment is very important to an online learning environment. A strong online community can support students, increase their accountability, and make them feel less distant and more engaged in their learning.

In the next layer of my model are the two items that are within the large brown circle surrounding the community of learners. The first of these things are the steps of inquiry based learning. I feel that the most important thing that students can leave any course or educational program with is the ability to be

a lifelong learner and to be able to teach themselves new skills. This will give them a better chance of success in a world where things change so rapidly and knowledge is not necessarily the most important thing. An inquiry based learning process teaches students to ask good questions, find resources to research and learn from, interpret the information that they find and use it to create or produce things, share and report their findings to their peers and the teacher, then reflect on and evaluate what they have learned. This process includes evaluation because I feel that the students, their peers, and the teacher should be involved in the evaluation process and provide feedback. In addition to an inquiry based learning process the BC Ministry of Education's Core Competencies are also in the brown circle. This represents that the competencies of communication, thinking, and personal and social responsibility are imbedded within the content that the learners will be focusing on regardless of the topic or subject.

The next aspect of my learning model is the white circle that surrounds the inquiry process and core competencies. This layer contains the overarching educational theories and philosophies that guide the students learning. Learners are at the centre of my model, and because of this the two educational theories that I have chosen to base my model on are the two most student focused theories: constructivism and connectivism. Constructivism means that the students will be learning based on personal experience, self-guided work, and collaboration. Connectivism means that the learning will be self-directed and connected to a network of peers that will give them the capacity to see connections between fields, ideas, and concepts. I believe that these two theories work very well in an online learning context and fit with an inquiry based learning model very well.

Outside of the circular portion of my diagram there are four things which I feel help to support learners in an online learning model and are the space in which the model itself exists. At the bottom of the diagram in the white boxes, learning management software and the teacher are shown to be supporting or holding the circle up. This represents that these two things play a facilitating or supporting role in the model. They are not at the centre of the diagram but they provide some necessary structure and help to keep it upright and stop it from rolling in away. In the top corners of the model I have labeled the teal space that surrounds the entire model 'the online environment' and 'technology' to represent that in an online learning scenario the entire learning design model exists within and depends on those things.