

***Blend but Don't Break:
Introducing the TEC-VARIETY and R2D2 Models***

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Description:

Abstract: In the age of the pandemic, everyone is talking about the need to motivate and engage their online and blended students. In dealing with COVID-19, online instructors throughout the world are seeking to integrate technology in more effective and creative ways, while remaining cognizant of the disparity in student Internet access, basic digital learning competencies, and time, space, and hardware availability. In spite of these challenges, some have found ways to push the edge of the online teaching and learning envelope in new and innovative ways, whereas others have striven to find low risk, low cost, low time activities; in effect, they blend but don't break. In response, Professor Curt Bonk will detail two of his designs for how to engage and empower learners and move them from bland online content and unimaginative activities to offering flexibility, choice, and creativity. In part, Bonk believes that learners want more variety, or more specifically, they want 'TEC-VARIETY'. Fortunately, his "*Adding Some TEC-VARIETY: 100+ Activities for Motivating and Retaining Learners Online*" book is free to download in both English and Chinese at: <http://tec-variety.com/>. Hence, you can creatively blend without breaking the bank!

To simplify Web-based learning possibilities, each letter of the TEC-VARIETY model stands for a well-known motivational principle, including:

- (1) **T**one or climate,
- (2) **E**ncouragement or feedback,
- (3) **C**uriosity,
- (4) **V**ariety,
- (5) **A**utonomy or choice,
- (6) **R**elevance and meaningfulness,
- (7) **I**nteractivity and collaboration,
- (8) **E**ngagement,
- (9) **T**ension, and
- (10) **Y**ielding products and goal setting

In addition, he will discuss his model called Read, Reflect, Display, and Do (R2D2) from his book, "*Empowering Online Learning: 100 Activities for Reading, Reflecting, Displaying, and Doing*." This model for online and blended learning can address different student learning strategies or preferences. It also is purposefully designed to help one focus on addressing learner diversity and inclusion. When combined, R2D2 and TEC-VARIETY can enhance, elevate, and even transform the quality of technology-enhanced FTF classrooms as well as fully online and blended courses to meet diverse learner needs around the planet; which is especially valuable during the pandemic.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- Obj 1: Utilize two different models/frameworks (i.e., R2D2 and TEC-VARIETY) from which to interpret and take advantage of technological and pedagogical trends.
- Obj 2: Create engaging, interactive, and collaborative fully online and blended learning experiences.
- Obj 3: Identify and select pedagogical ideas that can nurture learner interaction and engagement.
- Obj 4: Share online resources, tools, and instructional strategies with colleagues.
- Obj 5: Confidently begin to reflect on and address the backgrounds, experiences, expectations, and preferences of the widely diverse learners entering college classes today.