

What are the advantages and disadvantages of Direct Instruction & Mastery Learning when teaching adult learners? (list 2 or 3 of each)

Mastery Learning Advantages:

- Learners have prerequisite knowledge before moving on to another unit
- Requires instructors/instructional designers to closely look at the content in order to break it into units
- Requires instructors/instructional designers to define instructional objectives

Mastery Learning Disadvantages:

- Not all learners progress at the same pace; individualized instruction needs to be developed to accommodate different learners; if not, some learners will be waiting for others to master content in order to move on
- Supplementary materials needed for learners not mastering content and learning objectives the first time
- ML can lead to a focus on lower level learning objectives (knowledge and comprehension - where learners are simply memorizing and recalling information)

Direct Instruction Advantages:

- Has a relatively solid empirical track record
- Students achieve at a high rate of success
- Social climate is positive and free of negative affect

Direct Instruction Disadvantages:

- Approach should not be used all the time because it is not always appropriate in a comprehensive educational program
- Learners can't learn at their own pace

Select one advantage and provide an example that relates to your workplace.

- I use direct instruction in my CSIS 117d Dynamic Web development class and I have a very high student success rate using this method. In the past I would lecture, have students read their textbooks, and complete assignments outside of class; the drop rate was much higher then. Now, as long as students show up to class they can be assured of being able to complete their assignments because we are doing them in class. One drawback is that the pace is much slower, I have had to cut the amount of content I teach in a semester in half.

Select one disadvantage and provide an example that relates to your experiences learning online.

- I would say that most instruction I have received online has been behaviorally driven and designed using the mastery learning model. My feeling is that because of this that most of my online learning has been at the lower level learning objectives. The MSIDT program is an exception to that rule.