

CTLA Article Review

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Article:

Cook DA. Where are we with Web-based learning in medical education? *Medical Teacher*. 2006; 28:990-994.

What the Article is about:

This article is a literature review of articles relating to web-based learning with a focus on the field of medical education. The author asserts that research needs to shift away from the question “Should we use web-based learning” to focus on the questions “*how* and *when* should we use web-based learning?” He notes that while web-based learning is as effective as traditional classroom learning in most cases, there are very specific situations in which it is most beneficial. The author also stresses that there are many types and variations of web-based learning, each of which has its own appropriate application. It may be valuable to look outside medical research to explore further use of this technology.

Why the Article May be Useful:

As we begin to learn more about this technology, it will be important to consider its appropriateness in each learning context. The key to all good teaching and learning is having clear learning objectives. Before implementing web-based learning in a course, instructors should clearly identify learning objectives and determine the best teaching method to meet these objectives. In some cases web-based learning will be appropriate, but in others it will not.

Who the Article is for:

This article is helpful for those considering the use of Moodle or other web-based learning methods in their classes. It may also be helpful for those already utilizing such programs.