Module 3 Analysis

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INTRODUCTION

The environment in which a student actively participates plays a vital role in the learning process. According the University of Buffalo, "The learning environment includes the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical environments of a course; all of which will affect learning" (*Learning Environments*, 2023). An instructional designer must consider each of these factors regardless if the learning environment is online, blended, or flipped. This paper will address the pros and cons of an online, blended, and flipped learning environment.

ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The online learning environment is one that provides students the opportunity to learn content from a remote setting. Since learning is not restricted to a brick and mortar classroom, learners have the flexibility to learn anywhere and at any time. This provides learners the flexibility to create a schedule that meets their personal situation and learning needs. If a course is well designed, it will meet the individual needs of each learner through a variety of different learning styles. Well written rubrics will establish expectations for assessments and learners will be given the freedom to demonstrate their learning in their own way. However, there are some disadvantages to online learning. Since learners are working from a remote location, learner to learner interaction and collaboration is more challenging than in a classroom.   While some learners will go out of their way to interact with other learners, some will not (*The Pros and Cons of Online Learning and Online Classes*, n.d.).

HYBRID LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The hybrid learning environment allows learners to meet face-to-face as well as online. This type of learning environment can help learners maximize their time in the classroom and increase engagement. Since learners are only in the classroom for a short period of time, each session can be

structured around engaging lessons or labs. Science classes use labs to incorporate learning. Students can learn concepts at home and use what they learned in person in a lab; this type of learning is difficult to replicate in a remote setting (Lestari et al., 2021). Blended learning can be a nice transition to help learners understand how to be come independent learners in a remote setting. However, this transition between in-person and remote can feel unstructured. Learners could find it difficult to find a routine that works for them.

FLIPPED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A flipped learning environment allows learners to preview and learn content remotely and engage with the content in person. When a student is asked to complete homework or tasks at home, that can create anxiety if a student struggles with the content. Working through guided notes at home and engaging with the content in-person can reduce anxiety as learners can ask for support; this support can be from classmates or the teacher. When time is spent working on concepts instead of learning them in the classroom, this increase engagement and allows the teacher to work in small groups or even one-on-one with students. However, if students don't preview the lesson or take notes at home, they will have a difficult time learning as instruction is limited in a flipped classroom (Kozikoğlu, 2019).

CONCLUSION

Through the advancement of technology, learners are provided with a variety of options to meet their learning needs. It is important for learners to identify their learning style and assess their personal situation to determine what learning environment best suites them. Each learning environment has its benefits but also its challenges. This paper, and the graphic organizer in figure one, will help learners understand some of the pros and cons of each learning environment.
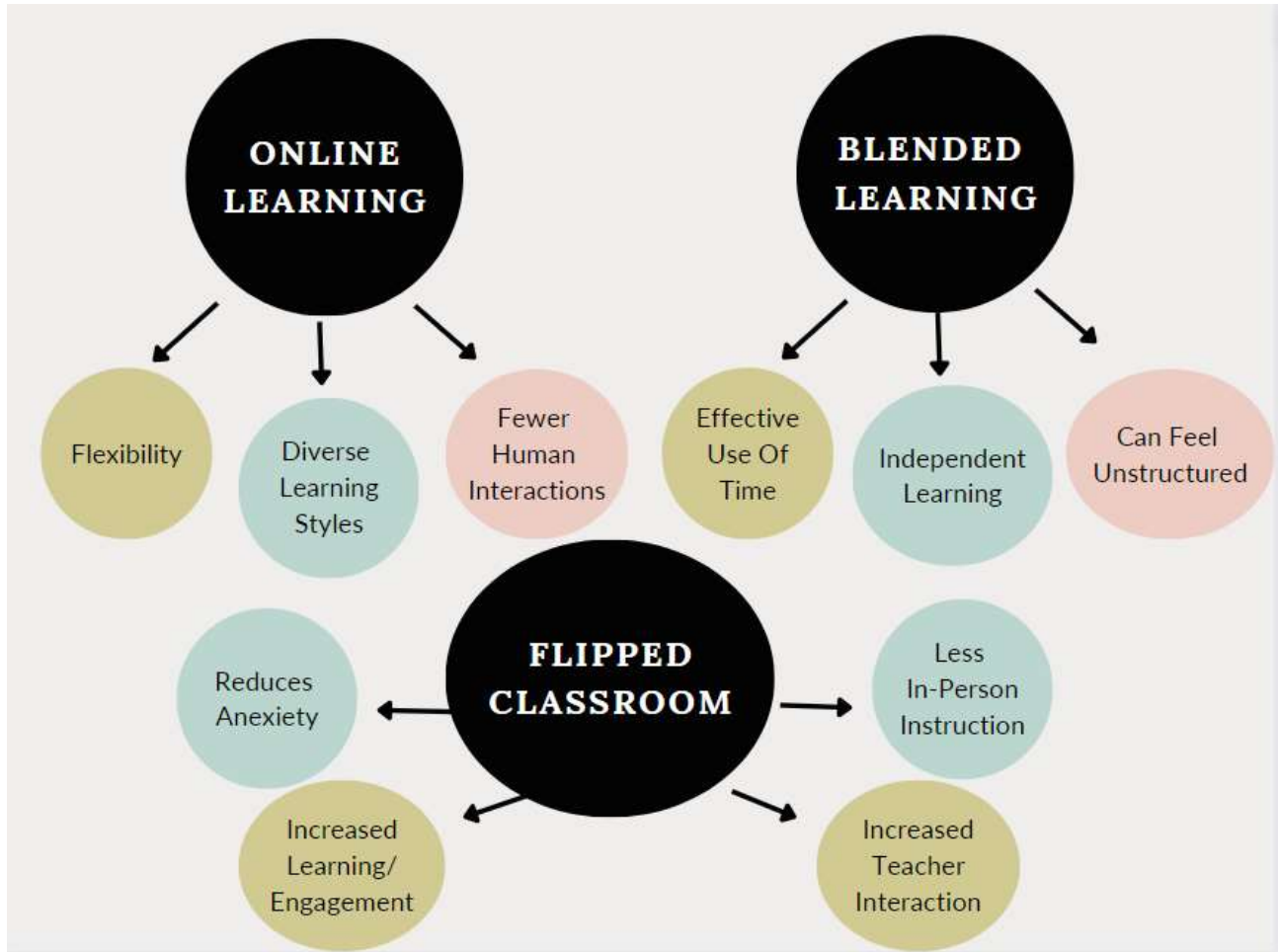
ONLINE, BLENDED, AND FLIPPED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Figure 1. Online, Blended, and Flipped Learning Environment (own design).

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