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Discussions

	Computer-mediated environment	F2F Environment
		(in-class discussions)
Strengths	Flexibility: Students can contribute to the discussion	Human Connection: It is easier to bond and develop
	at the time and place that is most convenient to them	a social presence in a F2F environment. F2F
	Participation: 100% of students can participate	environment makes it easier to develop trust, etc.
	because time and place constraints are removed	Spontaneity: Allows for the generation of rapid
	Depth of Reflection: Learners have time to more	chains of associated ideas and serendipitous discoveries
	carefully consider and provide evidence for their	(Mikulecky, 1998)
	claims and provide deeper more thoughtful	
	reflections (Milulecky,1998; Benbunan-Fich &	
	Hiltz, 1999)	
Weaknesses	Spontaneity: Doesn't encourage the generation of	Participation: Can't always have everyone
	rapid chains of associated ideas and serendipitous	participate, especially if there are dominating
	discoveries (Mikulecky, 1998)	personalities.
	Procrastination: There may be a tendency towards	Flexibility: Limited time, which means that you may
	procrastination (Benbunan-Fich & Hiltz,1999)	not be able to reach the discussion depth that you
	Human Connection: The medium is considered to	would like.
	be impersonal by many (Benbunan-Fich &	
	Hiltz,1999) – this may cause a lower satisfaction	
	level with the process (Haytko, 2001)	

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