

Writing Prompt for this unit:

After reading the texts, in a 5 paragraph essay, answer the question “Is distance learning good for everyone? Why or why not?” Use evidence from the texts and from your own experience with distance learning to answer the prompt.

Article 1- Western Governors University

January 17, 2020

STUDENT SUCCESS

Distance learning pros and cons.

Distance learning, often called distance education, is the process where students utilize the internet to attend classes and complete courses, without having to physically attend a school. Distance learning is increasing in popularity as technology advances and more opportunities arise for students to participate in quality distance education. There are many reasons why students may want to pursue distance education as opposed to traditional schooling. Similarly, there are many pros and cons to this kind of learning, and as it gains popularity, it's important to research and learn if this kind of learning could be a good fit for you.

Some students may find that they will have problems with distance learning or issues with online education. It may not be the best fit for everyone. But other students will find major value of online education and huge benefits of online learning. You simply need to weigh the pros and cons and decide if it's a good fit for you personally.

Technical elements.

Online or distance learning often has technology involved to help you do your coursework.

Pros: There are many pros to the technology element of distance learning. Many students have the ability to learn new tech and excel in it. They can feel confident with their technological abilities and even list on their resume the kinds of programs they used as part of their coursework. Another huge pro with technology as part of learning is that you can pursue your education from anywhere that has internet access. Students don't have to go to a campus to learn, thanks to technology they can make anywhere their classroom.

Cons: Sometimes students will find there are technical difficulties with online learning. There may be days when their internet doesn't work, when programs and software are down and they're unable to access their courses. This can be frustrating for many students, though often these bugs are fixed quickly and students are able to continue on with their work.

Flexibility.

Flexibility is the main reason why many people choose online education. But there are pros and cons involved with the flexibility of distance learning.

Pros: If you have a full-time job or family responsibilities, the flexibility of online education is the biggest pro for you. Distance learning means that you can continue with your job and family needs, and do your schooling when the timing is right for you. And at institutions like WGU, you can largely work at a pace that works for you. This flexibility means that you are in charge of your schedule and your schooling.

Cons: Some distance learning doesn't offer as much flexibility as you need, requiring you to log into class time or view discussions as they happen. While it still may be more convenient than driving to a campus, this kind of schedule online learning may lack the flexibility you need. Similarly, the flexibility of online learning can be difficult for some if they're not self-motivated. Since you're not expected to show up at a certain time, you have to have the discipline to make time for your education.

Social interactions.

Many students are concerned that distance learning means they are entirely alone. For WGU students, that's simply not the case.

Pros: Online learning often offers many opportunities for students to still get the interactions they want. For example, WGU students work often with their Program Mentor over the phone or email, giving them an important lifeline. Students can also interact with faculty for their courses if they have questions or concerns.

Cons: For students who truly want face-to-face interactions, distance learning simply may not be the best option. While you can get interactions with online education, often they are over the phone or internet, so face-to-face connections aren't as prevalent.

While online learning may not be for everyone, many of the questions students have about pursuing distance education can be answered. Many students will find that for them, the pros greatly outweigh the cons when it comes to considering distance learning.

Article 2- Teachnology

Elementary Schools Online: Are They a Good Idea?

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The popularity of the internet has tremendously changed the course of a lot of things in life. The way people communicate with their loved ones in far places has been greatly changed because of it. The ways some of the old businesses are conducted have also been revolutionized. Now, even education has taken a major leap, with the way it is delivered to the students. And this leap does not even refer to just using computers and the internet for the regular classroom teaching and learning process. This leap pertains to the entry of elementary schools online in the field of pedagogy or the education industry.

Online elementary schools use the technology to allow elementary pupils to learn without needing to be physically present in school. Teaching is done by just logging on to the internet to receive the lessons through modules that they can study on their own or with the help of their parents. There are regular schedules where they virtually meet with their teachers to discuss some topics.

If this is the first time you hear online schooling for elementary students you are probably asking the question 'elementary schools online, are they a good idea?' To help answer this question, here is a list of the pros and cons of going to elementary schools online.

Going to an online elementary school is convenient in many different ways. First, you have probably experienced having difficulty waking your young child up in the morning just to get him to go to school on time. With online learning, you do not need to cut your child's precious sleeping time to be in school every day. Next, if you live far from an elementary school, you do not anymore need to let your child travel long distances and you do not need to spend so much on fuel if you bring him there. You also do not need to pay the school bus fee.

Online elementary schools allow pupils to learn at their own pace. Unnecessary pressure is removed from your child's school life. They are not pressured to catch up with or outdo others. In the same way, some pupils who learn fast can move to the next level at an earlier time. They do not need to wait for others who take a longer time to learn things.

Safety and security issues are lessened if pupils will enroll in an elementary school online. Since they stay at home, they are [less likely to be exposed to viruses and germs like COVID-19 and influenza.] They are prevented from being victims of school bullies. Accidents while playing in the school playground [are] also eliminated. Even exposure to outside factors like road accidents is taken out of the equation.

There are elementary pupils who maintain erratic schedules because of the different activities they are engaged in like sports or participation in the entertainment business. Since they cannot keep up with the regularity of schedule in a traditional elementary school setup, the flexibility that online elementary schools give is very helpful.

The downside to enrolling in online elementary schools is that pupils do not get to develop socially. There are things that they need to learn through their interaction with their peers which they do not get because they are isolated from them. They also do not develop some characteristics and values that are best learned through socialization.

[Another downside to distance learning is the stress it puts on parents and students alike. Students can get help from their teachers via email, but it is harder to communicate questions and problems when you are not in a face-to-face setting. Because of this, students can get frustrated and lose motivation to continue their work. For parents, distance learning can be stressful because their children are with them 24/7, and they have to be everything for them—not only a chef, driver, maid, and parent, but a teacher, tutor, and tech support as well.]

After reading this list, the question 'elementary schools online, are they a good idea?' should no longer be an issue. You should now be able to decide if you will take this option for your child or not.