

ACTIVITY 1.1 – Analysis: The Instructional Problem

What is an “instructional” problem?

Activity purpose: This small group activity is designed to

1. identify an instructional problem versus a non-instructional problem
2. promote your thinking about your own instructional problem

How to do it:

1. Introduce yourselves to one another and select a recorder for the group.
2. Read each problem statement and *as a group* determine whether it is an instructional problem. Explain your reasoning.
3. Be prepared to discuss your answers and rationale with the whole class.

Sample instructional problem statements proposed by EDIT 226 students

- A. Residents in earthquake prone areas have difficulty identifying many hazardous objects and situations in their homes and are unaware of possible remedial action.
- B. How to best develop an essay writing program so that students could focus more on the writing process (including editing) and less on grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- C. Community College is creating a new listening and speaking lab with 25 computers available for students of English and other languages. One class has been created to let students of English as a second language (ESL) practice their speaking and listening skills. However, the lab was created to serve the language art department and not only ESL students. A needs assessment would help teachers and people working in the lab know what students need and want, which would help to create better planned classes.
- D. Develop standards for record keeping in the Facilities Planning and Design department (currently 5 designers) at XYZ Office Furniture for the entire design process, so that if a projects' designer must change, the new designer can find accurate information quickly and easily.
- E. Baseball players ability to focus on task at hand in a controlled environment (practice) vs their inability to do this same task in a pressure situation (game) i.e. getting them to not focus on external stimuli when the environment changes.
- F. As a teacher technology mentor, design instruction which meets the assessed needs, interests, and skill level of the individual teacher so technology integration becomes meaningful and applicable to their classroom setting.
- G. The sales team in a computer authorized re-seller company is not meeting nor surpassing their monthly target level in sales.
- H. Mandate made by the State of California for a new category of licensure of RDH's which would be RDHAP Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice). No dental hygiene institutions are offering classes to meet this need. Is there an interest by RDH's to expand their licensure to RDHAP, by completing additional education? If this program was to be developed what format would they like?
- I. Customers of a company called "A" are returning products that are not defective, which should not be the case. The reason for the returns is that Customer Service Representatives are booking incorrect products. They are pressured to complete their job task.
- J. Redesign the Staff Development Training of AppleWorks -Drawing/Presentation to better meet the needs of the Teachers and Staff of an Elementary School, so they may fully utilize the software package "standard" in this School District.