

Module 8: Developing a Student Guide

Creating a student guide for online and distance learning is similar to the process of creating the materials discussed above. In this module you will learn about the principles and process involved in developing a student guide. You will also be given the opportunity to engage in the practical application of the principles and ideas covered in this module.



Objectives

At the end of this module you will be able to:

- Identify the characteristics of an effective student guide
- Distinguish between the types of student guides
- Discuss the principles for developing a student guide
- Develop an effective student guide



Unit Reflections

- Study guides are necessary for promoting self-directed learning!
- Remember, learners should ENJOY reading and using the course materials!
- Remember, ODL materials have a fairly complicated structure and access devices help learners find their way around the materials!



Activity 1

Instruction: Identify four types of learner support materials that you have previously produced for one of your courses. Explain the purpose these materials serve in aiding the learner.



Activity 2

Instruction:

1. Discuss whether or not the use of a learner's guide makes a difference to learning in an ODL environment.
2. Suggest four reasons to justify your view.



Activity 3

- You are developing a student guide. Provide examples of two ways that you would gain attention and present stimuli to support student learning in an ODL environment.
- Examine the sample guide and template provided in your *Seminar package* and evaluate it using the principles learned and the toolkit below.

Test Your Knowledge!

Answer True or False to the questions below.

1. A student guide is a resource that provides only academic learner support.
2. Opportunities for independent learning are characteristic of a student guide
3. There are two types of guides: assessment guides and administrative guides
4. In the ODL environment student guides play the role of the tutor.
5. Friendly, conversational language should be used in preparing a student guide.
6. Learners' needs are examined during the content development stage.
7. Motivational tips should be included in a student guide.
8. Visuals are a necessary criteria for developing ODL student guides



Assignment

Instructions:

Develop or adapt your own student guide for a course you teach. You may use the sample guide and checklist given above. You may modify the checklist as needed.

Solutions to the self-test:

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. T
6. F
7. T
8. F

References:

Rowntree, Derek (2000). Teaching for self instruction a practical guide. Nichols Pub. Co.:Michigan