

Title: **Developing teachers at a distance using video and 'patchwork texts'**

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Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- discuss the pros and cons of teaching observation at a distance
- judge the value of the patchwork text approach as a developmental tool in teacher education
- use criteria to evaluate the level of reflection in a short essay

Session Outline

Key issues to be addressed are:

Distance learning programmes are increasingly being used to develop teachers and their teaching at a distance (Anderson and Dron, 2010). However, is this development being monitored and assessed? How do we effectively evaluate the teacher's development and performance from a distance? In our distance PGCert programme we use a dual approach; video recordings of teaching are discussed over Skype™ and a series of 'patchwork texts' are analysed for teachers developing reflective ability (Dalrymple and Smith, 2008). This workshop will explore the implications of teaching observations from a distance and discuss how these experiences have affected our on-site observations. The 'patchwork text' approach to develop teachers' use a series of short written reflective essays – 'patches' – which are generated following a 'virtual teaching unit'. The 'patches' are formatively assessed to develop a final summative essay, linking all the individual patches into the 'patchwork'. Participants are supported throughout their modules to build this patchwork text to the highest standard. We will also show how this series of 'patchwork texts' have been used as an assessment method to support professional development of teachers (Dalrymple and Smith, 2008, Scoggins and Winter, 1999, Winter, 2003).

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

- Participant's experience of distance observation and patchwork texts (5 min)
- Outline of key concepts and process: distance teaching observation & patchwork texts (10 mins presentation)
- View and discuss sample of teaching observation at a distance video with pre-observation patch in pairs: (30 mins paired discussion with feedback to group)

- View examples of post-observation patchwork texts and judge using provided criteria (30 mins paired and group activity)
- Discussion of iterative process of reflective writing development (10 mins group activity)
- Wrap up and take-home messages (5 mins)

References

Anderson, T. & Dron, J. 2010. Three generations of distance education pedagogy. *The International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning*, 12, 80-97.

Dalrymple, R. & Smith, P. 2008. The Patchwork Text: enabling discursive writing and reflective practice on a foundation module in work-based learning. *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*, 45, 47-54.

Scoggins, J. & Winter, R. 1999. The Patchwork Text: A coursework format for education as critical understanding. *Teaching in Higher Education*, 4, 485-499.

Winter, R. 2003. Contextualizing the Patchwork Text: addressing problems of coursework assessment in higher education. *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*, 40, 112-122.