

5.95 In-Class Exercise #1

What Will Teaching and Learning Look Like in the 21st Century?

As we've discussed, a number of forces—economic, political, and social/cultural—have gone into shaping the modern university. Those forces, in turn, have had implications for teaching and learning in higher education.

Your Task

Your task is to think about how teaching and learning is likely to change in the next 50 years since that is the environment in which you will be working. Begin with an analysis of the economic, political, technological, and social/cultural forces that will be exerting an influence on the university, and hypothesize from there what kinds of shifts in teaching and learning you will face.

The Pedagogical Process

We will do this exercise in three steps:

- Each person will write his/her ideas separately
- We will ask you to share your ideas with one other person
- We will open up the discussion to the whole class

Your Reflections on the Pedagogical Process

As you go through each step of the process, pay attention to your own responses. How is working individually different from sharing your ideas with another? Do you change your ideas after talking them through? How are the instructors conducting the discussion? What is your level of participation in the discussion? Are the ideas that evolve from the discussion more or less sophisticated, interesting, complex, etc. than the ones you first generated?