



# The Role of Educator in a Digital World

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for Skills Tasmania and the Australian Flexible Learning Framework

# Recent Work

- the development of online learning software, such as gRSShopper, Synergic3, and Plearn
- offering a series of open online courses, such as CCK08 and 09, Critical Literacies, and PLENK
- theorizing around the idea of connective knowledge and learning communities
- writing OLDaily, giving talks, attending conferences (input input input)

## This Approach:

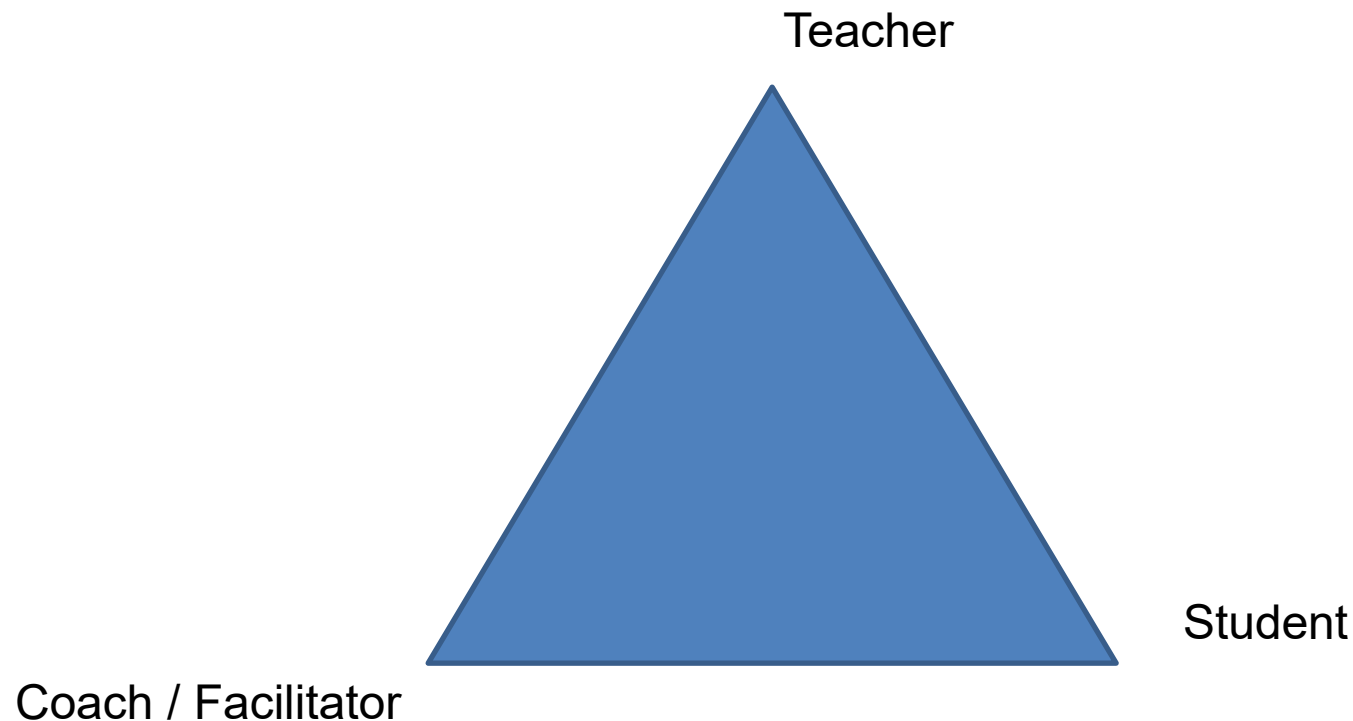
- emphasizes open learning and learner autonomy
- argues that course content is merely a tool employed to support learning,
- fosters a wider and often undefined set of competencies associated with a
- exercises in activities requiring those competencies
- grows knowledge rather than to transfer or construct knowledge through cognitive processes

## Major Underlying Theme:

- the role of the educator will change dramatically
- not a 'sage on the stage'
- neither merely that of the 'guide by the side'
- students need to be able to look to prototypes on which to model their own work
- the instructor, therefore, is required to take an active role in the disciplinary or professional community

- The role of the educator is expanding, and the educator must be a master of a discipline
- The learning environment has become more complex, and learner support more difficult
- the continued focus on "the role of the educator" or teacher is misplaced

- Triad model
- Examine roles and unbundle where necessary



- Educational Video
  - Khan Academy
  - TED
  - Free Video Lectures

## Some Examples

- Free Video Lectures <http://freevideolectures.com/>
- Roots and Shoots <http://www.rootsandshoots.org/campaigns>
- Challenge Based Learning <http://ali.apple.com/cbl/>
- Serialized Courses <http://course.downes.ca>



# The Roles:



# The Learner



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Collector



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Curator



What is it?

Examples

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Who Does It?

# The Alchemist



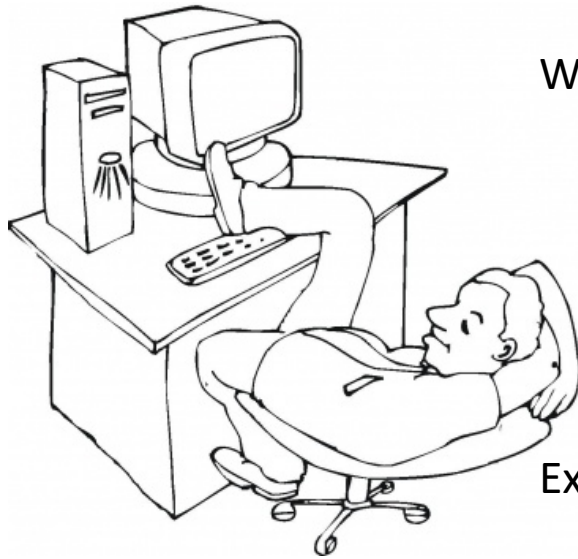
What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Programmer

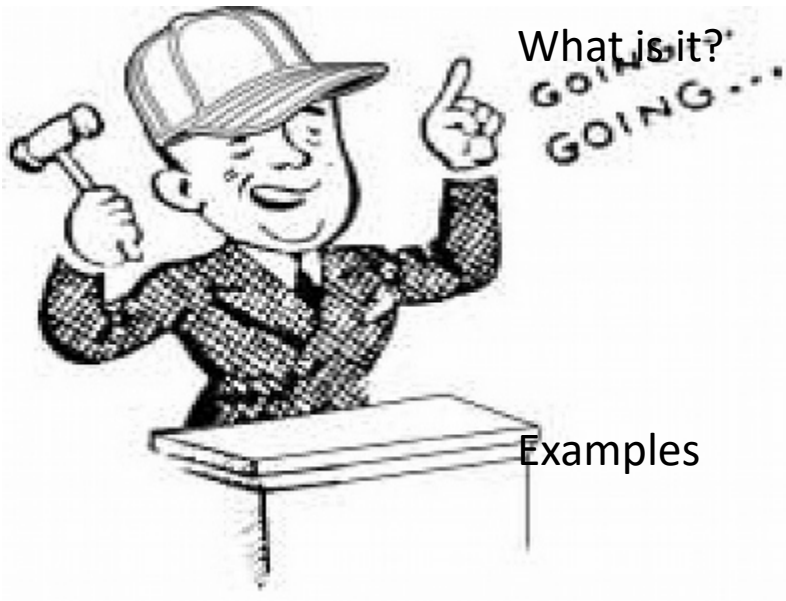
What is it?



Examples

Who Does It?

# The Salesperson

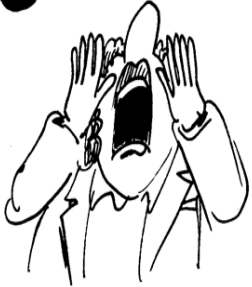


Examples

Who Does It?

# The Convener

**Volunteers!**



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?



# The Coordinator



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Designer



## What is it?

## Examples

## Who Does It?

# The Coach

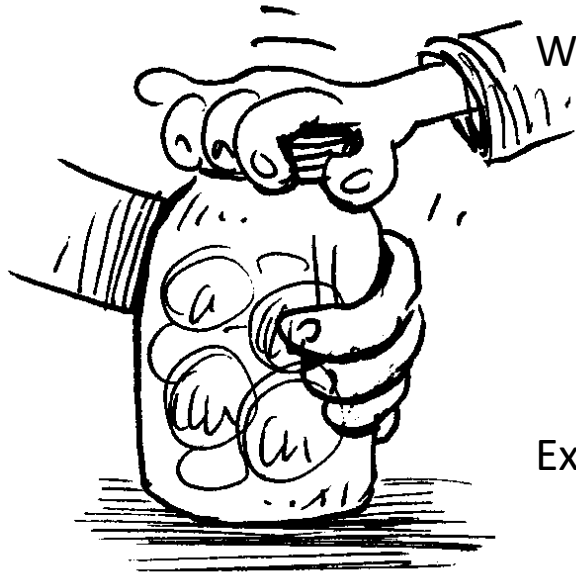


What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Agitator



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Facilitator



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# Tech Support

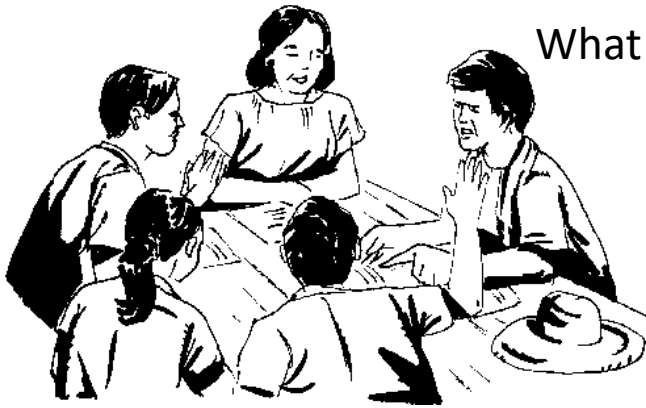
What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Moderator

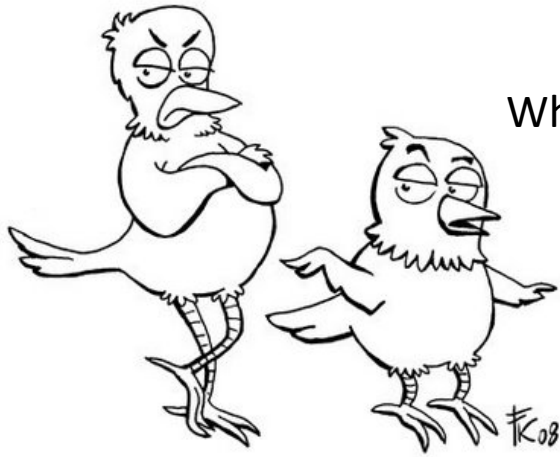
What is it?



Examples

Who Does It?

# The Critic



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?



# The Lecturer



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Demonstrator



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Mentor



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Connector

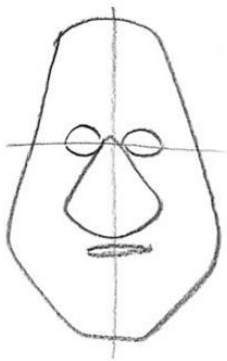


What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Theorizer



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Sharer



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Evaluator



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?

# The Bureaucrat



What is it?

Examples

Who Does It?



- That's 23 roles – and there are probably more
- These roles could be broken down even further
- But the main point is – the role of 'the educator' breaks down into many different tasks

- What 'role of the educator' is so important in learning?
- The likely answer is:
  - It's all of them
  - And it varies student by student
- Educators themselves have been gravitating toward one or another role

- Not every student needs every role
- Not every teacher performs every role equally
- This should lead us to think about possible efficiencies
- This is what's happening outside institutions anyways

- I am not proposing a re-engineering (there's no way that would work)
- I am talking about the beginnings of a rethink
- And gradually, we as educators will begin to realign ourselves to fill these new roles, or roles we invent ourselves