

ONLINE COURSES AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING: UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHIES AND PRACTICES

Tim S. Roberts

Central Queensland University

Celia T. Romm

Central Queensland University

David Jones

Central Queensland University

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to draw a distinction between the use of group work and subgroup work in the delivery of online courses, and along the way to pose the question “What should be the objective of the instructor?” To do this, four different models of online course delivery used in the teaching of IT and IS courses are described. Each model is distinguished from the others by the varying levels of group work (low to high) and subgroup work (low to high) used as an essential component of the learning process, and the advantages and disadvantages of each model are discussed. The paper concludes by suggesting that the objective of the instructor may play a hidden but substantive role in the selection of the model to be used.