"Cutting the 'Content' Cord: Where Do We Want Students to Be in the Fall?"
By Cassandra Armstrong

Video Transcript:

Okay everybody. My computer says 7:00, so we're going to go ahead and get started.

Welcome to the IMSA Center for Teaching and Learning COVIDeo Series 19-19-19. This is "Cutting the Content Cord: Where Do We Want Students to be in the Fall?".

So before we get going, some quick housekeeping items.

All participants are muted and your video has been turned off. However.

if you want to speak out,

feel free to unmute yourself.

Just know that this is being recorded.

You can also type questions in the chat box and they'll be answered

following the presentation.

And then if you a follow-up questions or want to dive deeper into any of the topics discussed,

you can make an appointment with one of the IMSA's "Ask a Specialist" experts.

This is all the members of our team. It would be a one-on-one Zoom session

where you would pick your grade level and area that you're wanting to chat about.

And we would meet with you for a 30-minute meeting.

Who is IMSA? IMSA is a residential high school in Aurora, Illinois.

And while it is a school, as a whole, its mission is to ignite and nurture creative ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition and part of that is the IMSA Center for Teaching and Learning. And we offer professional development sessions on math, science, technology, and pedagogy

for all teachers throughout the state of Illinois. So that's what's part of bringing what's bringing this series.

So, the first thing I want to do is look at this photo.

And the title of this session was a little vague.

So I've been talking with a lot of teachers over the past month

since the whole pandemic like

kind of began.

And so many teachers were really really worried about their students

really getting the content and...

How I still have so many standards to hit I have so much to cover.

How is this all going to get done

remotely or without without having any contact with students etcetera?

well...

a lot of times in education, we worry about covering so many topics that we breeze through them and so that would kind of be like the guy on the right.

He is digging really wide. He's covering a lot of area, but he's not getting very deep.

But if you look at the figure on the left,

he's kind of concentrated in one area and going really deep.

And you can see he's almost to all the light bulbs.

This is I think a really good opportunity for our students to get really deep and focus on a topic or two of your choosing.

And while it might not be covering all of the standards that you need to check off your list,

I think there's a lot that...

to be gained from students going really deep into something and working on collaborative projects.

Or doing research, you know, things that we don't often...

think that we have time for in the classroom. This might be the perfect opportunity to do that.

And one of the great... so some learning objectives

for this webinar: we want to identify the main components of executive functioning.

So really all of those skills. Yes, content is important, but in our math, science, and all of our courses, we learned so many different skills.

And...

a lot of those skills are executive functioning skills. And these are things... skills that we

start working on in infancy. And we try to hone all the way through adulthood.

And...

They're they're just important life skills. So, we're going to talk about what some of those skills are. We're going to look at how e-learning might impact some of those skills, and then we're going to look at some tools that you might be able to use in your classroom to help

students with some of those skills.

So here's some executive functioning skills.

We have planning. Planning is kind of like foresay, you know. If you have

a test in a week and a paper in two weeks and...

XYZ. Being able to have the foresight to know that you need to do things or prepare for things before they are going to happen.

Time management. This is something that I think really varies person to person depending on...

different students or adults. Different learners' attributes.

What I do in two days might take some one of my teammates one day and might take another teammate three days. You know everyone approaches different

tasks differently, but I think the big part of time management is knowing your own kind of skill set and making sure that you are doing things your best way.

Working memory.

I kind of attribute to like problem solving. Its it allows us to juggle with all of the stuff that's in our heads.

And try to make sense of it.

Self-control is the ability to regulate yourself. Your thoughts, your emotions. All that.

Perseverance is plainly just not giving up.

When you get really stuck on a math problem or you know your data is not supporting what you thought it was going to. Instead of just throwing in the towel to say no going to try again I'm going to look at it a different way, etcetera.

Organization.

So, organization, just like time management, I think is very personal.

In elementary school, middle school, I remember being forced to have a planner. I'm not a planner person like an agenda person. And we had to fill it out everyday and have our parents sign it to prove that we did it. And it was such a chore for me and I hated it, but I was still very organized and I still got all of my work done. So I think organization is also very personal and it's not necessarily following other

people's organization methods, but it's just being able to develop and maintain your own personal

organization.

Task initiation.

I kind of think...

of this as doing things that you don't necessarily want to do. If you know even putting off writing a paper, forever forever, forever. It's being able to sit down and be, like, okay it just needs to get done and I'm going to do iteven though I don't want to.

Metacognition is understanding your own thought process. It's like kind of like

self-awareness. It's like a brain side of self-control.

Attention is...

strictly your ability to maintain focus.

And flexibility is your

ability to adapt and change. You know if something... at I think as teachers we all have a strength of flexibility because things never quite go quite how we expect them to.

So these are a lot of the skills that I'm sure we know ...realize are important for our students and ourselves.

No one is a master in all of these skills.

You might be able to identify some students who you know, "Like, oh man, you're right. That person has a really great organization skill or that student really can persevere."

So let's talk about how this might be affected by e-learning.

So metacognition and self-control. These are that like self-awareness type things.

When students are at home, they are full of distractions. In the classroom, yeah, there might be a couple distractions, you know, cell phones, their friends, whatever, but at home...

They don't have their friends, but they have the TV. They have video games. They have their family members. They have a full fridge. All of these things might affect...

might be affected...

or might affect how they are learning.

Time management. It's really easy. I mean, I even find myself, you know, getting distracted by my phone even though I have my phone at work in my cubicle, but when I'm at home...

I feel myself getting more and more distracted by my phone. So sometimes I'll just leave it in a different room.

And really kind of just try to set those type of like small goals.

Planning and organization. Again there's just something about being in a school, in an office...

checking things off your to-do list...

that when you're home alone it's a lot harder to kind of hit some of those goals.

Especially if you're talking about projects in like group projects and things like that. The communication you know everyone's using Zoom.

Communication aspect is really quite quite difficult or things like a group project remotely.

And then task initiation and perseverance. So getting started and making sure it's finished. That is something that I also have found myself struggling with a little bit.

You know it's a lot easier to put stuff off..

when there's no one to quick turn and talk to you across the hall or...

if the you don't you know see your boss everyday or you know the students aren't seeing their teachers everyday they might not quite see the carrot at the end of the stick to keep going. So these are some of the things that I have found myself maybe be affected by a little bit and I think might have a bigger effect on our students.

So...

I wanted to just provide a few resources that I think might help some of those.

Some of those issues.

The first one is called WorkFlowy.

And...

what it is is it's basically a...

easy online...

outline maker.

And...

it's similar to like Microsoft OneNote, but I mean, it's quite simple. I made this one as kind of like an outline for this webcast.

Each bullet...

is it kind of its own new document.

So if I click on that the 19-19-19 COVIDeo Series, all of my main bullets come up behind it. If I click on housekeeping, there's nothing there, but if I wanted to fill in with the bullets that I use...

I just click a bullet.

You know, muted and turned off.

Things like that.

You can move bullets over.

And then you can just go back. And now it has like a little gray circle there.

IMSA info.

The graphic. The learning objectives. Those are the three.

And you can add hashtags. So some organizational tools for elearning. We're looking here at WorkFlowy.

Some of the other ones were going to look at are Trello.

And Clockify.

So in putting those hashtags in here, I can click them at any point and it will take me to the other parts

or I can search up here and it will take me to the other parts in the outline where I've identified that hashtag.

Executive functioning skills we talked about are each their own...

bullet point.

These are all of the points that we kind of talked about. I hashtagged WorkFlowy as being... this would be really helpful for planning and organization.

Especially because you can you can also tag people.

So...

if I wanted to assign a planning. If This were a group project and I wanted to assign the planning and organization tab to someone you can just @ them.

So I just said @ you.

Because I...

don't have any one specific to turn it to tag it to. But it's it's a really cool it's a really nice little...

free outline service.

You have the sidebar here.

So that's the first one I wanted to talk about.

The second one is called Clockify.

This one is it kind of like a time sheet but I didn't...

think that....

you know, as a teacher you would want to use it for a timesheet for students. But more so

to maybe kind of see who's working on

what. So like today, I just put in a couple examples. Right now I am working on the webinar.

And I guess I could have started it.

So I'm doing my webinar so if I had started that right at 7, you know, it would be in and I can tag it to a project.

So I have two projects going on. This webinar is part of the 19-19-19 COVIDeo Series.

So I can tag it to that project.

And then when I'm done,

it'll get moved down there.

I realize that that time is messed up.

I can edit it.

And go back and say that I started this

at 7 p.m.

So it's just kind of a cool, self-tracking thing, and you can kind of see over time....

like how much time you spend on different projects.

And there's there's kind of a lot of data you can look at there.

Okay And then the last tool I want to talk about is Trello.

And Trello is...

has a lot of uses but what I kind of...

found here. There is a template in Trello.

As a kind of "To Do" list.

Trello just like the...

WorkFlowy one, you can tag people. So if this if you were working on a group project

and you wanted to...

have all members of the group in here. And you can make these boards. So we have a "brainstorming" board, a "to-do" board, a "doing" board and a "done" board.

So if I wanted to brainstorm new webinar ideas...

I can add that. I can put all sorts of stuff in there. I can assign it

to myself.

And that way I know that it's something that I'm supposed to be working on. I can assign it to other people on my team and there will be multiple people on there. And then once it's out of the brainstorming idea, I can either add another card into my "to do" or "doing" once we come up with ideas.

Or I could just move this over...and you can move them from from board-to-board.

It was just a really cool organizational...

tool that you can use for planning, for organizing, for anything that you might want to use with a group project.

So we had WorkFlowy, Clockify, and Trello.

So...

Thank you for attending. This presentation has been recorded like I said. And you can find a recordingat IMSA.edu/events

There's also an attendee survey. So if you enjoyed the webinar or if you did not enjoy the webinar, you can follow that link and fill out the survey.

We have a couple upcoming webinars. Tomorrow is "Using a Tech Tool to Teach About the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or the UNSDGs".

And it is Earth Day.

So it'll be a good one. And then on Thursday we have "The Art of Storytelling with a Creative

Tool."

And go back.

So thank you very much. Again my name's Cassandra Armstrong. I'm curriculum writer and professional development specialist at

IMSA. And if you have any questions feel free to reach out or send a chat.

But if not, thank you for attending. Have a great night.