

# The Business of Education: Online Learning in Developing Countries

**SUBMITTED BY:** Lee Jackson

**SUBJECT(S):** Management

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 9, 10, 11, 12

## ≡ OVERVIEW:

The goal of this lesson is for students to consider the economic benefits of online learning in the global marketplace.

## ≡ NBEA STANDARD(S):

- Management, VIII. Technology and Information Management
- Management, XII. Global Perspective

## ≡ WHARTON GLOBAL YOUTH PROGRAM ARTICLE:

- [“What Is a Smart City?”](#)

## Common Core Standard(s):

Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.

**Objectives/Purposes:** Utilize information and technology tools to conduct business effectively and efficiently.

## Wharton Global Youth Program Article: “Technology and Teaching: Flipping the Model”

**Other Resources/Materials:** Markers, whiteboard, optional links to online learning sites:

- Belize University- <http://online.ub.edu.bz/>
- American International University- <http://www.aiu.edu/>

### Key Terms:

- **Information technology** – The technology involved with the transmission and storage of information, especially the development, installation, implementation and management of computer systems within companies, universities and other organizations.
- **Information management** – This is the collection and management of information from one or more sources and the distribution of that information to one or more audiences.

### Tying It All Together:

*Ask.* How many students have read online newspapers? Chatted online via AOL, Yahoo! or GChat? How many have taken an online course? How are they different from in-person courses?

*Demonstrate.* Online courses, once thought to be less-than-excellent options for obtaining certifications or degrees, are now recognized as valid means of higher education. As with most technological advancement, there are pros and cons. (Generate a list of possible advantages and disadvantages of online learning with students: How online learning can impact learning.)

### How Information Technology Affects Organizations:

- Removes constraints of time and distance, allows widely dispersed students, groups and faculty to work together.
- Provides for the sharing of information and increases effectiveness and efficiency.
- Integrates decision-making and work. Provides more complete information and participation for better decisions.
- Creates problems of constant accessibility to students, and blurs the line between work and personal lives.

*Activity.* Divide students into two groups: supporters and skeptics of online learning. Then, have students consider the topic: “Online Learning – yay or nay?” Have each student write a brief persuasive summary (about one page) supporting their position. If time permits, students can share their work with the class in the form of a debate.

**Practice Outside of the Classroom:** Have students seek out an online learning site. Is the site open to people in other countries? What are some of the available courses?

**What Worked and What I Would Do Differently:** If time is an issue, students can do a grouping of bullet points rather than a position paper.

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