4AS OF REMOTE TEACHING FRAMEWORK

by:
Andres C. Matawaran
Education Program Supervisor
SDO BATAAN

The pandemic could not stop us from continuing our usual activities. We cannot settle with **ACADEMIC FREEZE** because lack of graduates may result into BRAIN **DRAIN**. Lack of new breeds of professionals may jeopardize our economy so we should keep on going through performing and utilizing **THE BEST POSSIBLE, YET CONVENIENT MEANS.** This paradigm shift in the teaching and learning process in Philippine higher education demands for collaboration among stakeholders, as well as firming up the exchange of knowledge, resources, and best practices. The situation calls for a firm collaboration among the people involved in order to execute an effective transition and transformation towards the new normal.

Making remote learning happen can be considered as a life saver because it is one of the major ways to restrain the virus from spreading. However, we cannot settle with this new set up within a flash, and we cannot expect everything to go smoothly as planned. We need to **PLAN, RAMP-UP, HEAD-SCRATCH** for the new tactics in order to execute them effectively. Here are the **4As** that will wrap everything up.

ADAPTABILITY

The paradigm shift in the teaching and learning process shall allow us to be willing to learn, improve, and flex those muscles! Use flex time to **DODGE THE HASSLE** of coordinating schedules with administrators, teachers, and students. We must also consider the situation of students and colleagues because a set up will not be effective if it will not work for both parties. **THE PRINCIPLE OF ADAPTABILITY WON'T WORK**

OUT IF THE SET UP WILL NOT BE FAVORABLE FOR OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED. Remember, new normal does not mean that we will be working by ourselves. Virtual interactions will be present from time to time.

Of course, we should also consider asynchronous works for those who lack Internet access at home. Not everyone is capable to always have connectivity due to some factors such as unstable connection and financial constraints. Therefore, it is a must for us to **CREATE BACKUP TEXT-ONLY ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPLAINERS** in order for the students to keep with the pace. The teacher may also **PREPARE PRE-RECORDER EXPLAINER VIDEOS** so the students may recall instructions.

AVOID DATA FATIGUE. You might not want your students to lose track due to information overload that will compromise the next A, which is **AUTHENTICITY.**

AUTHENTICITY

The new normal setting must still appear authentic just like in the face-to-face interaction so we should see to it that we can still **KEEP THINGS ROLLING**. Pure discussion could bore students who have short attention span so since the new normal allows us to be dependent on technology, it is high time to integrate it so at least your students can have **BREAKS BETWEEN DISCUSSION**. Let us not make it tiring, but rather exciting and with lots of learning. Remember, we are making everything authentic as possible, and at least the only thing that will change in this setting is the absence of physical interaction.

Aside from those, we should also collaborate with students to **ELIMINATE OR AT LEAST REDUCE SCHOOL-AT-HOME DISTRACTIONS.** There should be an agreement for everybody and everyone must be oriented with school-at-home management, just like in the normal classroom setting. Setting ground rules for deadlines must also be considered so that students will not be too relaxed in dealing with their requirements.

You do not want your students to see you as a programmed bot. Of course, we still want to make discussions happen naturally so we must be mindful of instant feedback cues like facial expressions, eye contact, and other possible non-verbal communication so you can still establish connection to your students. Remember, **KEEP YOUR FINGER ON THE PULSE,** make your students feel that you are with them, and this will eventually lead to the principle of **AFFIRMATION**.

AFFIRMATION

We should not let our students fail in school and add to the dilemma of their **ALREADY-STRAPPED FAMILY BUDGETS**. We must take into consideration that many families lost their livelihood due to pandemic, that is why we cannot always expect our students to shell out from their purses for some extra expenses. Let us improvise as much as possible and we must see to it that the school works that we will require them to do will always **PRIORITIZE THEIR SAFETY** and are **NOT TOO COSTLY** for them. Further, experts claim that mental health is the next pandemic because of the brewing anxieties, adjustments and other issues, so we must be understanding and empathetic because most of us are still trying to cope with the new normal.

Lastly, and one of the most important things to consider, the school must establish an **ONLINE SAFETY POLICY** that everyone will adhere to in order to avoid potential risks. The university may adapt or create their own policy that abides with the law and other legal basis that will make the policy framework firm. Just make sure that the implemented rules and regulations also come with **ACCURACY.**

ACCURACY

To make everything accurate and precise, teachers must create plans and plot their schedule that will serve as their springboard once the classes had kicked off. While some might view online works as a weak option, when strategies will be executed effectively, stakeholders will appreciate how **MANY THINGS WILL BE MADE POSSIBLE**

VIRTUALLY. Everything must be targeted, but make your strategies flexible so when inconvenience happens, there will always be a Plan B.

Moreover, you must set clear and regular deadlines and stick to them religiously. We should condition our students from the very start that we are strict when it comes to deadlines so our own schedule will not also be hampered. Keep in mind that we will not interact with them physically, so we should not let the class **VANISH INTO THE MIST.**

***

Remote learning can have many roadblocks and in order to clear them out, **4As OF REMOTE TEACHING FRAMEWORK** could be adopted in order to pull off an effective transformation towards the new normal. Expect it not to be a smooth-sailing process, it will not be even in a face-to-face interaction, because learning is a life-long and a continuous process. We should enhance our practices in this D-VUCAD world wherein everything is disruptive, volatile, uncertain, complex, ambiguous, and diverse. We will discover how we are going to adjust as challenges and difficulties unfold along the way. Remember the four simple words that we could always bring in our pockets: **ADAPTABILITY, AUTHENTICITY, AFFIRMATION, AND ACCURACY.**