Case Based Learning

POLICY

What is Case-Based Learning?

Case-based learning, also known as the case method, teaches and assesses students by simulating real-life scenarios. It helps students in acquiring relevant knowledge by posing hypothetical or even real-world problems for them to solve.

Case-based learning enables the understanding of complex problems through the use of previous solutions and optimized recommendations. It's an effective learning method because it helps students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It also helps students in developing their research and collaboration skills to solve new and complex problems.
Case studies are typically done in groups or as a class, but educators may occasionally allow students to choose case studies individually.

Why Use Case-Based Learning?

The case-based learning method is a highly recommended teaching method because it allows students to apply classroom and research knowledge and skills to solve real-world problems. Here are the major benefits of using case-based learning:

- **Authenticity**

  Learning from real cases helps students understand how their knowledge can be applied to real problems, which makes their learning experience more meaningful.

  Students are more likely to solve problems from their perspectives because they are learning from real-life scenarios, which allows them to apply their critical thinking and creativity skills.

- **Problem-Solving**

  Using case studies requires students to analyze the scenarios critically and come up with authentic solutions. The process of studying the cases and applying their knowledge and skills to solve the given problem requires students to leverage their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

  When students practice problem-solving skills through case studies regularly they improve their ability to process information quickly and come up with efficient solutions to similar problems. This skill is especially useful in most professional fields because it allows you to deal with unforeseen circumstances and provide appropriate solutions on the spot.

- **Transferability**

  Case-based learning allows students to apply their knowledge and skills from lessons, assignments, and assessments to solve new and unfamiliar problems. This makes their knowledge and skills transferable; they can easily adapt to a new environment effectively.

- **Collaboration**

  Case studies often include group work, which allows students to practice teamwork and help them develop collaboration skills. Knowing how to collaborate effectively within and across teams is one of the most important soft skills professionals need to build and run organizations effectively.

  It also allows students to learn important life skills they can adopt in real-life scenarios.

- **Flexibility**

  Case-based learning requires students to provide authentic solutions; the solution is frequently adaptable; it can be used to solve more than one case. It also allows for more flexible learning experiences, such as e-learning and hybrid learning.

What Is the Purpose of a Case Study in Medical Education?

The primary goal of using case studies in learning is to provide students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to solve real-world problems.

Case-based learning can take place at all levels of education. Starting this type of learning earlier allows students to quickly hone their problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity skills, which will become muscle memory when they become professionals.

Here are other goals educators achieve with case studies:

- Build students' problem-solving and critical-thinking skills
- Foster students' Collaboration skills
- Equip students to solve real-life problems
- Help students develop transferable skills and knowledge to solve new problems.

Role of tutors: Tutors serve as facilitators and supervisors during case-based learning, supporting and providing assistance as required. During group work, tutors can move around, asking groups questions to ensure that they are focusing on tasks to identify struggling groups and record student progress.

Case selections: Tutors can either create their own case or choose cases from existing sources (if it is). When creating cases, tutors must ensure that cases:

- *Are short;*
- *Tell a story;*
- *Are relevant and interesting to students;*
- *Are based on factual information;*
- *Provoke reflection and culminate in decision-making;*
- *Have a learning purpose;*

Characteristics of Cases

Cases are generally stories or narratives that include characters and scenarios. These narratives are presented in the form of written, video or interactive cases, and can include simulations. Versatility, story-telling and efficiency in promoting self-guided learning are all useful, positive qualities of cases.

Formats for Cases

- **"Finished"** cases based on facts: for analysis only, since the solution is indicated or alternate solutions are suggested.
- **"Unfinished"** open-ended cases: the results are not yet clear (either because the case has not come to a factual conclusion in real life, or because the tutor has eliminated the final facts.) Students must predict, make choices and offer suggestions that will affect the outcome.
- **Fictional cases:** entirely written by the tutor—can be open-ended or finished.
- **Original documents:** news articles, reports with data and statistics, summaries,etc. With the right questions, these can become problem-solving opportunities. Comparison between two original documents related to the same topic or theme is a strong strategy for encouraging both analysis and synthesis. This gives the opportunity for presenting more than one side of an argument, making the conflicts more complex.

Applications of cases: Besides a practical application of theory, case work can also be given as assignments and for assessing student learning. Teachers can create specific rubrics for assessing both individual student skills, and group participation.

With case-based learning, student understanding of concepts can be improved as cases provide a context for the concepts. As the strategy encourages learning through action and problem-solving, student retention of information is strengthened.

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