

Step I: Describing the Instructional Technology and Context

Descriptions convey the purpose of the instructional technology being assessed and set the frame of reference for all subsequent decisions. Items to include in a description are:

- **A Statement of Need** that describes the purpose for assessing the instructional technology.
- **The Expected Effects** of instruction that convey what the instructional technology is supposed to accomplish to be considered successful
- **Instructional Activities** including the specific steps, strategies, or actions and their appropriate sequence
- **Resources Available** to implement the instructional technology including time, human skills and knowledge, other technology, data, money, and other assets
- **Instructional Context** includes the instructional setting and environment (e.g., student demographics, social milieu, fiscal conditions, and organizational relationships) within which the instructional technology is implemented.
- **Identify the Potential Users** of the technology and describe their characteristics such as age, education level, and assumed experience with technology to name a few.

Use Worksheet G (below) to document the teaching context.

- Record technology, context, and potential user characteristics to help you identify the purpose of your assessment, and to formulate central questions.

Adapted from the following source:

North Carolina State University, University Planning & Analysis. *Assessing the Impact of Technology-Rich Spaces on Student Learning: Frequently Asked Questions*. <http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/assmt/litre/faqs.htm>

Retrieved September 19, 2006.

Worksheet G: Describe the Instructional Technology and the Learning Context

Instructional Technology Characteristics

Technology name:

Function of the technology:

How the technology is used:

- When (e.g., before/during/after class session, flexible, etc.)
- Where (e.g., in-class, out-of-class, regular classroom, computer labs, etc.)
- Who (e.g., students as individuals, small groups, whole class, instructor, etc.)
- How many people?
- How is it used? (e.g., to show a simulation in class, as a resource for homework, for review, etc.)

The objectives to be achieved with the use of technology (e.g., facilitating discussion, facilitate students' understanding of the material):

Learning Context Characteristics

Program/course name:

Number of program participants/students in the course:

Number of service locations:

Program/course description:

Program/course goals:

Program resources available:

Service Recipient (User) Characteristics

Sex:

Age:

Other (e.g., familiarity to and willingness to use the technology, academic background, etc.)

Student Learning Outcome Goal

What will the participants/students be able to know (cognitive), do (skills), or think (attitudes) with technology?