E- LEARNING ACTIVITY SHEET

*Topic: Is it a good idea to use avatars to replace humans as teachers in schools?*

Perform a quick research on the functions and abilities of avatars. Based on the information you have found, consider whether these functions are sufficient to meet the skills and abilities required of a teacher in schools. Are there any areas where avatars are unable to replace humans as teachers? (10-15 mins)

Finally, write down what you think are the advantages and disadvantages of using avatars as teachers. (15 mins)

Advantages :

1. A great way to get shy students involved or to share comments with students in other countries.

Examples/evidence :

-Shy students would not be afraid to comment or ask as they are not facing the teacher face to face. Thus they would have the courage to do so and this would definitely help the student to improve in many aspects when they have clear their doubts.

2.

There are more social and psychological benefits on the impact of teachers’ reactions to suicidal students.

 Examples/evidence :

This [**Kognito Interactive study**](http://www.kognito.com/atrisk/research.html) found the majority of educators at 72 participating universities and colleges believed the study’s “At-Risk” simulation program using student avatars provided them with the confidence they needed to help suicidal students seek professional help for their mental distresses.

Disadvantages :

1. Sometimes the avatar would talk too slowly and students will get impatient.

Examples/evidence :

When the avatar talks too slowly, students would lose interested or get involved in the lessons. This would abdly affected the student’s study. But the avatar would not be abl to change their talking speed immediately.

Your views : (15 mins)

Based on your list of advantages and disadvantages, decide on your own position. Write one paragraph to explain why you prefer one side over the other. Support your views with strong reasoning as well as examples, evidence and/or illustrations.

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| I prefer of using avatars as teachers.   * Firslty, there is higher order thinking and storytelling skills for students through applications such as [**Avatar Storytellers**](http://www.avatarstorytellers.com/default.asp?iId=HILHG). Such as more and more educators, from kindergarten to higher education, are breathing digital life into the classroom by using these customized speaking and non-speaking animations to explain simple or complex subject matter to students through storytelling and interactive activities.   Secondly, creative and design collaboration on projects through 2-D animation (i.e. [**CrazyTalk**](http://www.reallusion.com/crazytalk/)). Such that Avatars can serve in a number of capacities, depending on how the educator wishes to engage students in a particular lesson. These 2-D and 3-D simulations can walk students through a notable time in history, portray famous people and serve as a student’s alter ego accompanying him or her through the lesson plan. Lastly, there are more social and psychological benefits on the impact of teachers’ reactions to suicidal students. [**Kognito Interactive study**](http://www.kognito.com/atrisk/research.html) found the majority of educators at 72 participating universities and colleges believed the study’s “At-Risk” simulation program using student avatars provided them with the confidence they needed to help suicidal students seek professional help for their mental distresses. |

Once you have completed the activity, copy and paste the paragraph onto your own page on your class Wikispaces website.