

Integrating Critical Thinking Practice in Online Teacher-Students Introduction

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Abstract

Covid 19 pandemic forces teacher and new students to meet in their first meeting online for distance learning. They could not do face to face meeting as normal as usually. Therefore, there should be particular strategy so as the introduction to keep being impressive and the students are still able to reminisce what they should know about their teacher and the learning system. They have to understand the system they will going through whenever the forthcoming normal school begins. The strategy used in this activity comprises communicative, creative, critical and collaborative activities which are aimed to give an opportunity for the teacher to introduce herself and how she manages the class in remote online mode when delivering the subject through video and LMS features app. Canvas Instructor used in this activity gives students opportunity to think critically from the video of teacher introduction and trivial quiz to recall the introduction. The discussion board provided the canvas is also giving them opportunity for students' peer-self introduction. The result of this online teacher-students introduction activity through Canvas Instructor coped the learning objective. The students succeeded to get some teacher's personal information. They were also able to answer the trivial quiz about their teacher personal information and they got opportunity to get to know their class mates even they were still apart.

Keywords: *online introduction, critical thinking, LMS*

Introduction

The first meeting in a new school program will usually be the first reference for the new students about the learning system and its platform during the school learning program in pandemic Covid 19. In the meeting brings about students-teacher introduction and learning program they will do in the semester ahead. The introduction comprises teacher's personal introduction, subject overview, and how the learning process is going on including the learning contract.

As it is known that the situation of Covid 19 pandemic has forced teachers and students meet for the first time online, consequently, there must be particular strategy to have a teacher-students introduction in order to give good impressions for students. In addition, the students will also reminisce everything they have to know about learning activities at school. They do not have to redo the introduction when they came back to school in new normal situation, including peer's introduction.

The strategy used in this English 7th grade classroom comprises more than one activity at least to achieve the 21st century education which demand the learners to communicate, to think critically, to be creative and to do collaboration. These learning activities of introduction aims to introduce the teacher to the students and among the students themselves through video, quiz and discussion board in an LMS to sharpen critical thinking skill. The use of LMS instead of live meeting forum like Zoom or Google Meet is good choice since it gives self-regulated

learning activity. The students can monitor, evaluate and control thinking while completing tasks that helps support critical thinking and transfer of knowledge (Marczak: 2019)

Methodology

The learning medias used in the activities are video, quiz and discussion board. These medias are believed to give students opportunity to train their critical thinking skill. According to Oxford University Press critical thinking activities comprise interpreting, analyzing, evaluating, drawing conclusion, explaining and self-regulation and those can be done through observing video, doing quiz and joining discussion. In the analysis activity, the students identified the elements of video and rearrange information they got. They were also be able to evaluate and to draw conclusion ideas. Information revealed by video.

The platform used in the introduction activity is an LMS for Canvas Instructure. All medias and learning activities sites such as reading, listening, practicing, doing the task and evaluating in one web pages I that LMS. The students need not jump out to other web page to do the learning activities thus they focus and learn effectively.

Learning stages

In the opening site it is introduced to menus of various activities the students need to do on the Canvas.

1. Students sign in to their Canvas account and come into HOME where they will meet learning module consisting learning activities

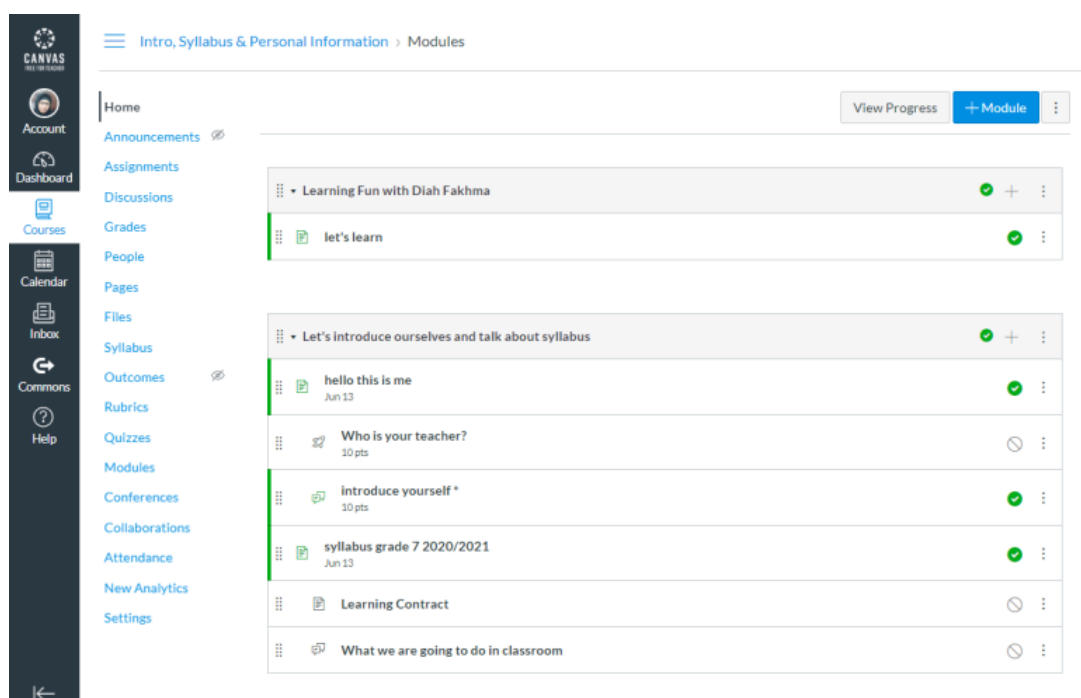


Figure 1. Canvas home screen for learning

It shows a series of activities to do which has been navigated in orderly by the Canvas automatically. The students only need to click the first set **Let's Lear** then continue to other activities through NEXT button which is available in every page. However, they can run it freely by their own path. They can stop and continue it later by clicking the available menu in this page.

2. Next, in page Let's Learn, the students learn what learning activities in Canvas and communication media can be used to have consultation whenever they get problems during online learning.

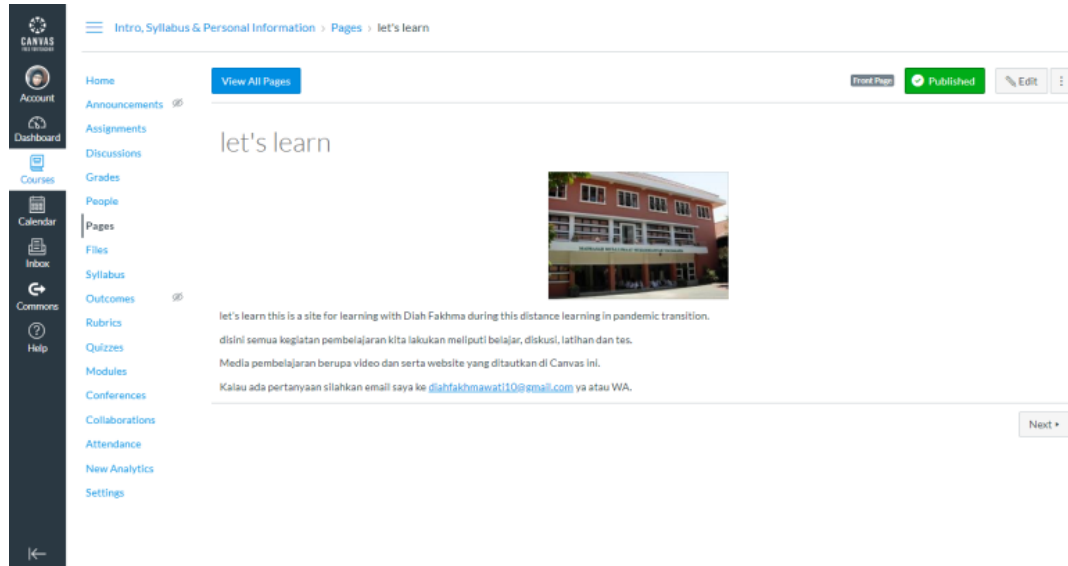


Figure 2. Canvas is a communication medium that can be used for problem-related consultations during online learning.

3. Then, the students go to module **Let's Introduce ourselves**. There are three activities they must do. The first is Hello This Is Me. The second have to answer the questions in the Quiz which questioning about teacher personal information. This activity is also to check the students understanding of the previous activity on how much they can capture the information by observing the video. The third is a forum for the students to introduce among them.

In stage **Hello This Is Me**, the teacher introduce herself using video instead of text or audio with image. Marzack (2019) confirms some research that students are able to understand information delivered in some modalities; verbal, visual, graphical and symbolic in format of video. This kind of digital learning environment foster them to think critically.

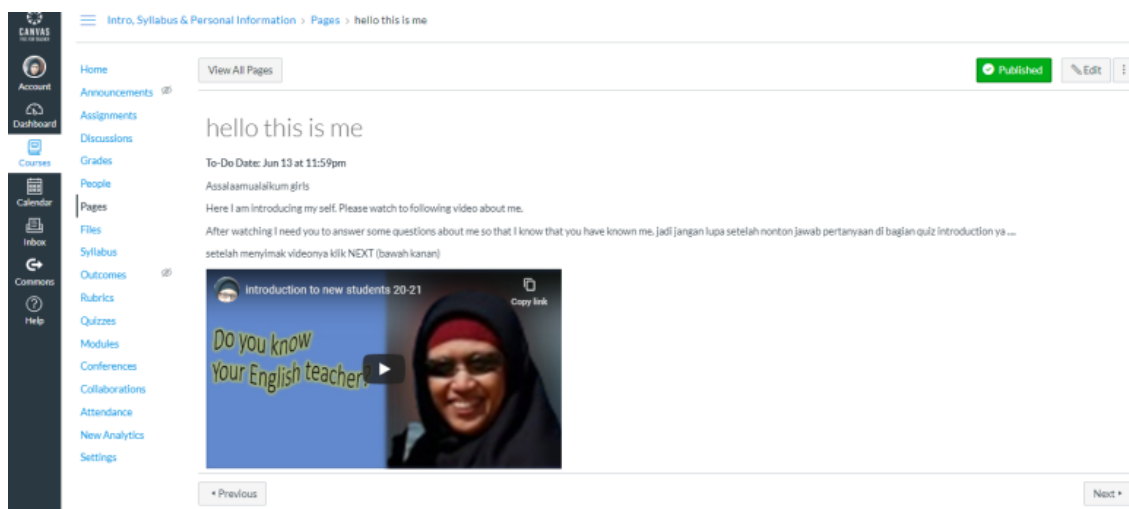


Figure 3. Some features of the canvas used during study

Having observed the video the students go to the module entitled **Who Is Your Teacher** delivers quiz which aims to make the students completely know their teacher and will recognize her when they actually meet in F2F class later.

In these modules the students learn to think critically and creatively in that they must solve the questions delivered in the Quiz stage after observing the video. The quiz itself questions about personal information of the teacher that implicitly in the video. Thus, the students should think and analyze the information displayed in the video and draw the conclusion to get whole information. The information is described in form of subtitle, images, and inserted-videos. For example, when talking about numbers and gender of children it is implied by picture of them. The information about educational background is delivered by telling the cities of the university located and type of campus. The images and inserted videos are used to talk about the teacher's hobbies and fondness.

Those process of critical and creative thinking are running during the learning activities. To train the students to think critically and creatively the teacher needs to ask questions that can be answered by the students after having some activities such as analyzing, interpreting, evaluating, inferencing in self-regulation activities (Mansbach, 2015).

Intro, Syllabus & Personal Information > Quizzes > Who is your teacher?

Home Announcements Assignments Discussions Grades People Pages Files Syllabus Outcomes Rubrics Quizzes Modules Conferences Collaborations Attendance New Analytics Settings

Points 10 Not Published

Details Questions

☐ Show Question Details

nickname 1 pts

I like you to call me ...

origin 1 pts

I am from ...

Question 1 pts

I was born at ... on ...

education 1 pts

I was graduated (university) from ... and ...

<https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/2098170>

Figure 4. Students learn to think critically and creatively to solve the questions presented in the quiz stage after observing the videos

4. Next stage is discussion forum named **Introduce Yourself** where the students chat with others to introduce themselves. They should mention name, origin, social media id if they have and many things, they want others to know. Through this forum hopefully they will know to each other and befriend beyond the classroom.

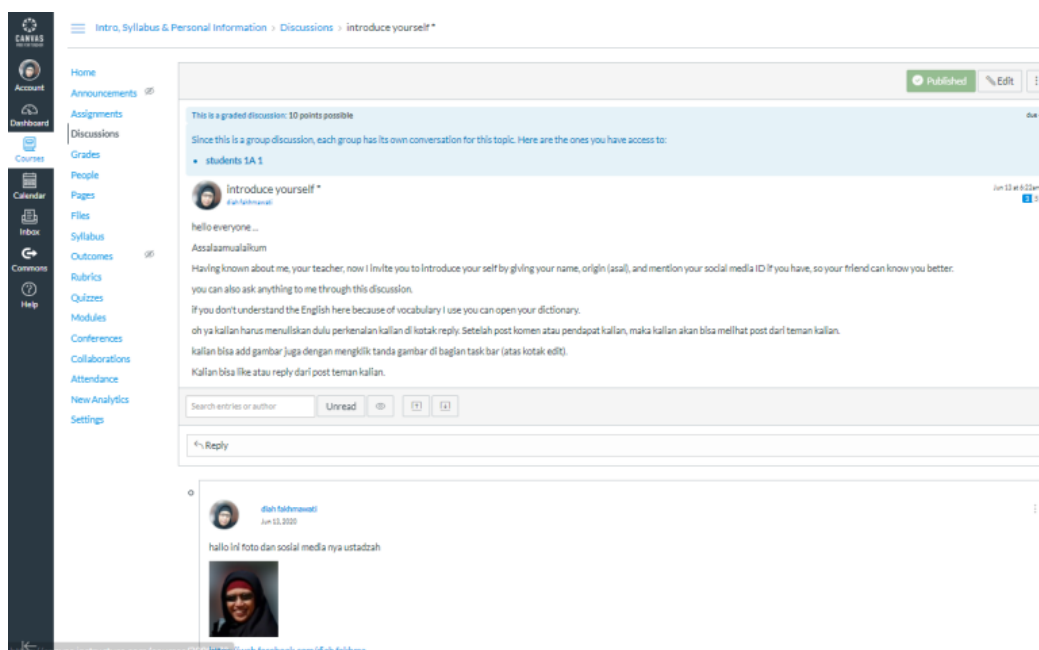


Figure 5. A discussion forum called Introduce Yourself

- Having finished introduction, the students learn syllabus and materials they will face for two semesters ahead. Beside a video presentation there are also image and file of the presentation enclosed in the page for the students download them easily.

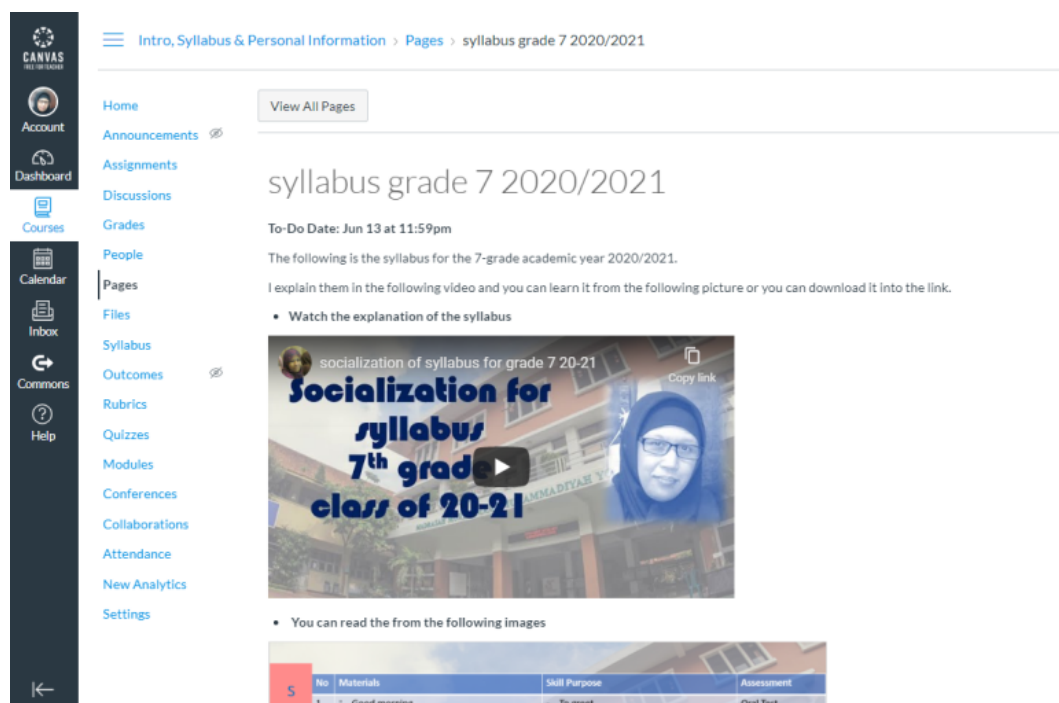


Figure 6. The students learn syllabus and material over the next two semesters

- After learning the syllabus, the students take a survey to conclude the rules in the classroom activities, the dos and the don'ts, which is called **Learning Contract**. This activity is delivered by Google Form.

Figure 7. This activity learning contract is delivered by Google Forms

Having completed the survey, the teacher asks the students to discuss the result of their voice about the rules and ideas of the dos and the don'ts. In this forum entitled **What Are You Going to Do**, the teacher consolidates the conclusion of the survey with the students and also the signing of learning contract.

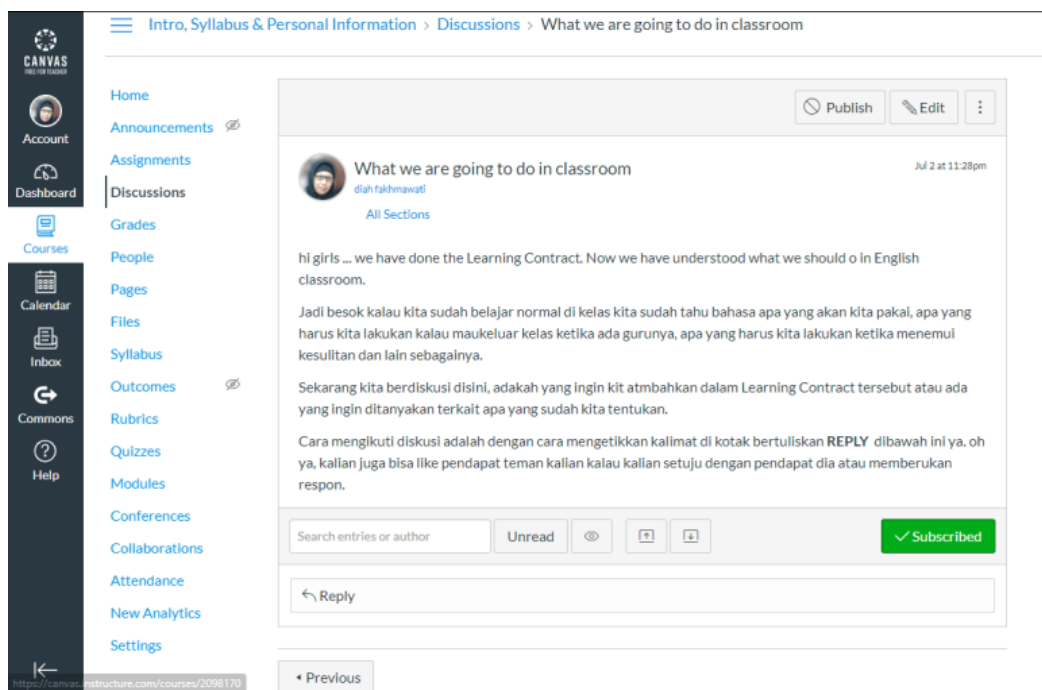


Figure 8. the teacher consolidates the conclusion of the survey with the student and also the signing of the Learning Contract

Conclusion

Overall, the whole activities in introduction with LMS Canvas which integrating video, quiz and discussion board coped the learning objectives. The students succeeded to get some

teacher's personal information from video and the quiz. By interpreting and drawing conclusion from the video they were able to answer the trivial quiz about their teacher personal information and they got opportunity to get to know their class mates even they were still apart. Still, they also got into giving their opinion and discuss with the teacher on how the learning will be in their classroom.

The video recap for the activities can be viewed in <https://youtu.be/IFo8q7ivdcE>

The video of introduction is available in https://youtu.be/J_YXdXn2Wbs

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