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An Examination of Online Discussions in Higher Education: Leveraging Technology to Increase Learner Engagement and Collaboration

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An Examination of Online Discussions
in Higher Education:
Leveraging Technology to Increase Learner
Engagement and Collaboration

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Despite the popularity of online discussion forums, many do not achieve the intended transfer of knowledge.

- Research question
- Literature Review
- Theoretical Framework
- Research Methodology
- Conclusions and Recommendations

Research Questions

- **Q1.** Does the inclusion of audio technology, specifically VoiceThread, affect the transfer of knowledge?
- **Q2.** Does the inclusion of audio technology, specifically VoiceThread, affect learner engagement?
- **Q3.** Does the inclusion of audio technology, specifically VoiceThread, affect learner collaboration?

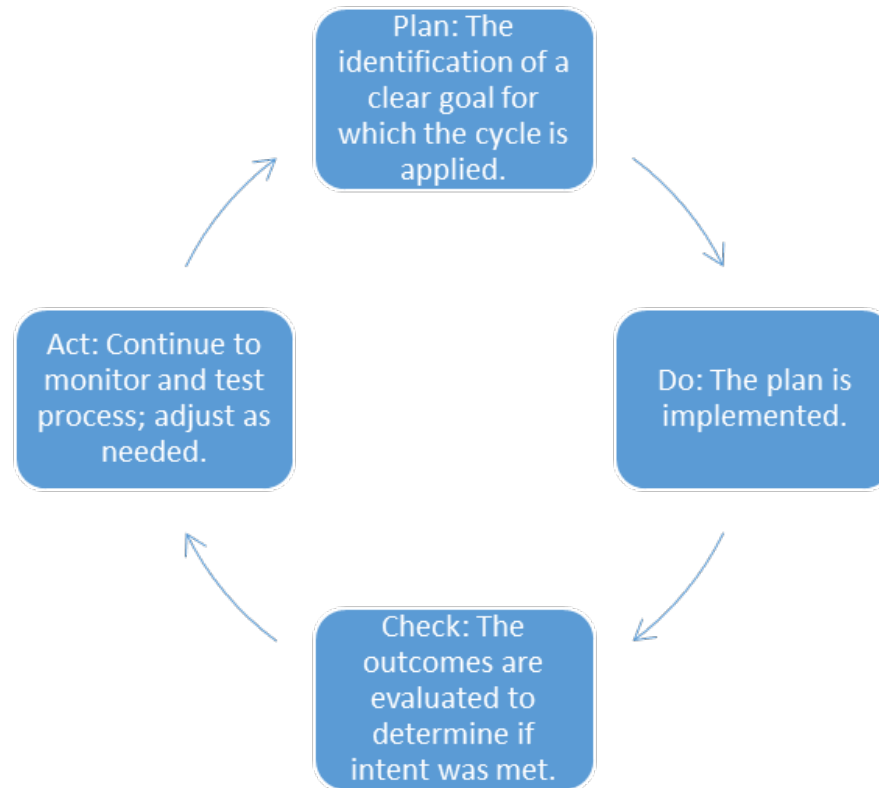
Literature Review

- Evolution of the online learning environment
- Quality
- Role of technology



Theoretical Framework

- Edward Deming's Plan, Do, Check, Act (PDCA) Cycle



Research Methodology

- Independent variable:
 - Discussion forums with enhanced audio/visual applications
 - Discussion forums without enhanced audio/visual applications
- Dependent variable: Engagement of online learners
- Causal-effect relationship
- Pre-test/post-test – Quasi-experimental design
- Measure: Grades of participation in discussion forums

Conclusions and Recommendations

- VoiceThread is AWESOME! When used properly, and in the right conditions, it can improve learner engagement and collaboration in aviation and aerospace education.



QUESTIONS?