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IMPACT OF COMMUNICATION MODES ON DISCUSSION IN K–12 ONLINE
EDUCATION (211 pp.)

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With the growth of online education, decision makers inside and outside of academia raise questions about the methodologies involved with this approach to learning. This study explores the views of high school students who attend a K–12 school regarding the effect of communication and delivery modes in problem-solving discussions. Participants are given scenarios to discuss in a peer-group environment in a face-to-face setting, synchronous audio conferencing, and asynchronous discussion forums. From student surveys, individual interviews, researcher evaluation, and transcription analysis a deeper understanding of how the different modes influence interaction among students were explored. With a greater awareness of the characteristics of the different communication approaches, educators, parents, and others interested in online education will better comprehend how students interact in this environment.